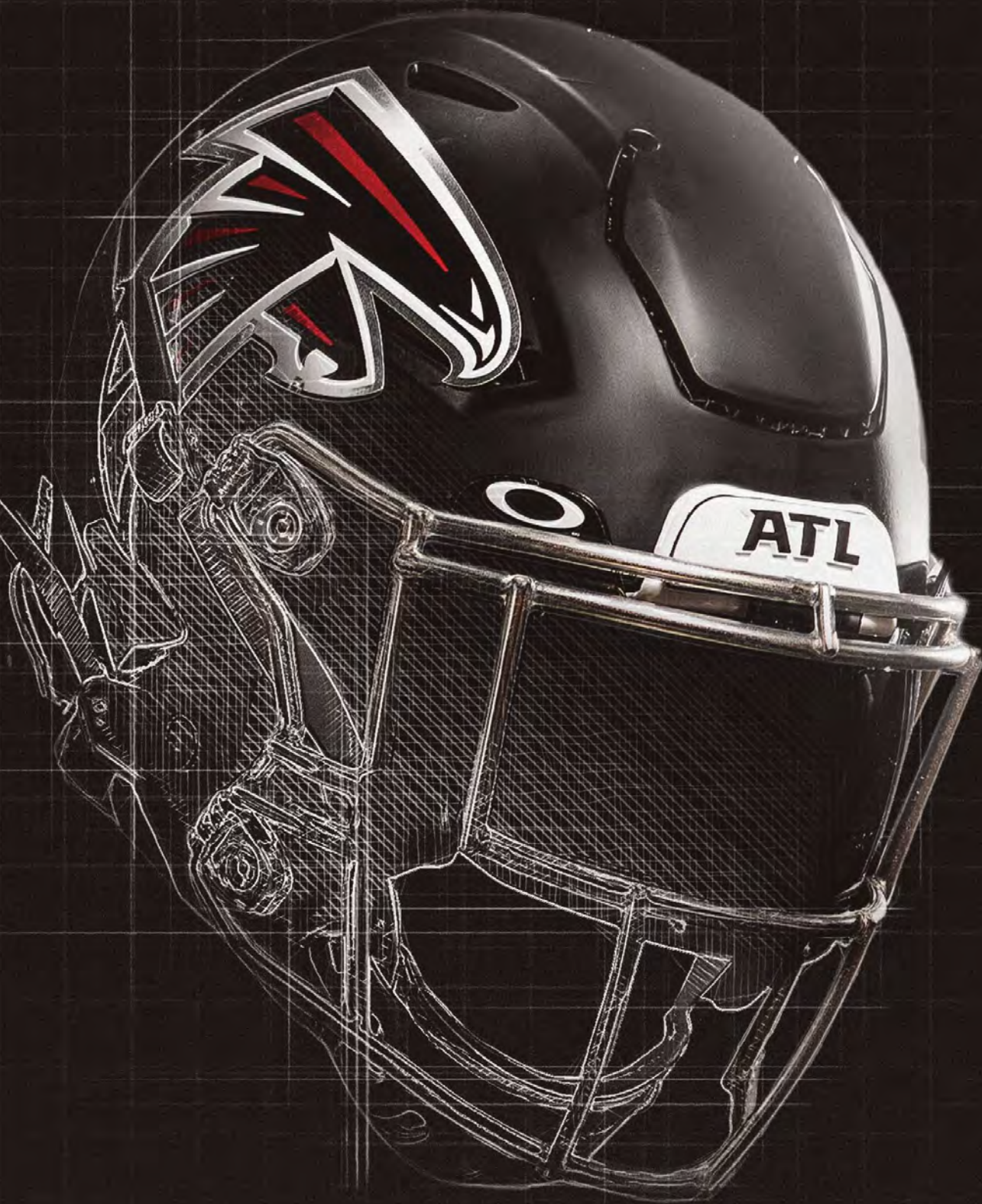




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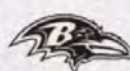
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8.9 7:00 PM
at MIAMI



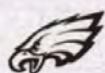
PRESEASON 2
8.17 12:00 PM
at BALTIMORE



PRESEASON 3
8.23 7:00 PM
vs JACKSONVILLE



WEEK 1
9.8 1:00 PM
vs PITTSBURGH



WEEK 2 MNF
9.16 8:15 PM
at PHILADELPHIA



WEEK 3 SNF
9.22 8:20 PM
vs KANSAS CITY



WEEK 4
9.29 1:00 PM
vs NEW ORLEANS



WEEK 5 TNF
10.3 8:15 PM
vs TAMPA BAY



WEEK 6
10.13 4:25 PM
at CAROLINA



WEEK 7
10.20 1:00 PM
vs SEATTLE



WEEK 8
10.27 1:00 PM
at TAMPA BAY



WEEK 9
11.3 1:00 PM
vs DALLAS



WEEK 10
11.10 1:00 PM
at NEW ORLEANS



WEEK 11
11.17 4:05 PM
at DENVER



WEEK 13
12.1 1:00 PM
vs LOS ANGELES



WEEK 14
12.8 1:00 PM
at MINNESOTA



WEEK 15 MNF
12.16 8:30 PM
at LAS VEGAS



WEEK 16
12.22 1:00 PM
vs NEW YORK



WEEK 17
TBD TBD
at WASHINGTON



WEEK 18
TBD TBD
vs CAROLINA

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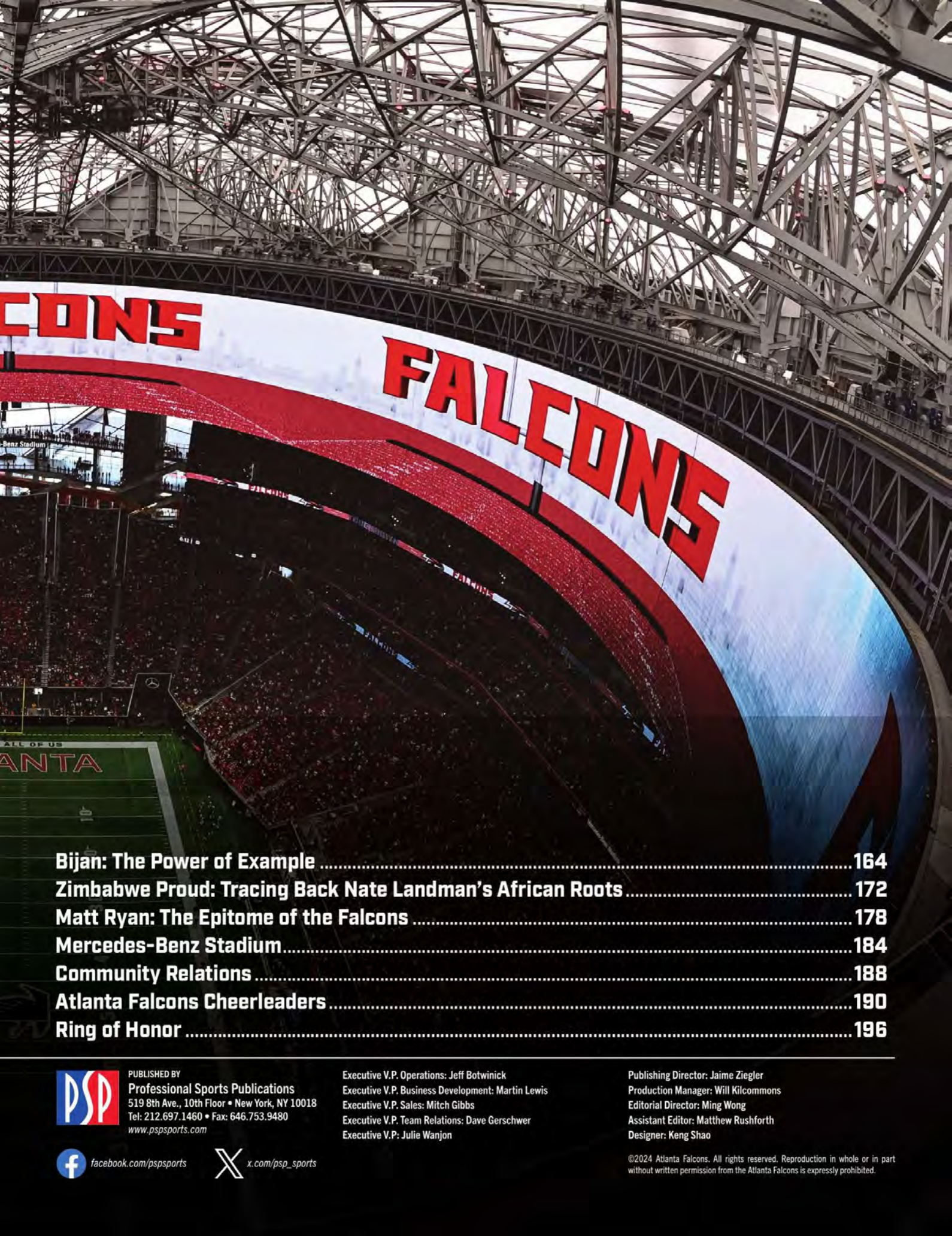
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ATLANTA FALCONS

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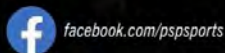
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ARTHUR BLANK



Perhaps best known as co-founder of The Home Depot, Arthur Blank is now widely recognized for his diverse businesses. Named by ESPN as the 2021 Sports Philanthropist of the Year, Blank is a tireless advocate of using purpose and profit hand-in-hand to benefit the communities around him. Blank has been distinguished by Forbes as one of the World's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds 2017, Sports Business Journal's Executive of the Year 2018 and Sports Business Journal's one of the 50 Most Influential People in Sports 2016, 2017, 2018.

In addition to the Blank Family Foundation, Blank's Family of Businesses includes the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United; the nationwide PGA TOUR Superstore; three ranches in Montana, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch and Paradise Valley Ranch; and Mercedes-Benz Stadium, which hosted the 2019 Super Bowl and is home to the Falcons and Atlanta United.

In 2020, Blank released his book *Good Company*, a national best-seller, highlighting how the core values successfully used to the build The Home Depot can be applied to varying businesses. Blank believes in the importance of making a difference – professionally and

personally. In addition to the company's financial success, during his 23 years with The Home Depot the company donated more than \$113 million to communities, while associates participated in hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer time. Blank is applying the same business acumen and values in building his competitive, successful and community-oriented businesses today.

Blank is dedicated to his own giving back. Since 1995, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation has granted more than \$800 million, and will significantly accelerate the impact of its philanthropy over the next 10+ years in its new collective areas of giving, which include Youth Development, Democracy, and Environment. The foundation also leads giving programs for each of the for-profit businesses in Blank's portfolio. Through his Foundation and businesses, Blank has donated nearly \$7 million to COVID-19 pandemic relief.

A native of Queens, N.Y., Blank received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration with Distinction from Babson College. Blank resides in Atlanta, Georgia and is the father of six children and has six grandchildren. Consistent with the way he approaches work and life, his favorite T-shirt appropriately reads, "There is no finish line."



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CEO - AMBSE

RICH MCKAY



Chief Executive Officer of AMBSE and Chief Executive Officer of Atlanta Falcons, Rich McKay, has been a fixture in the National Football League for more than 30 years. One of the League's most influential executives, McKay joined the Atlanta Falcons in 2004. During McKay's tenure, the Falcons have been to the playoffs seven times, been to three NFC Championship games and participated in Super Bowl LI. McKay was hired by Owner and Chairman Arthur M. Blank in 2004 and served his first four years as the team's general manager. He was promoted to president and chief executive officer in 2011. That same year, national columnist and creator of Monday Morning Quarterback [MMQB], Peter King, named McKay number 10 out of the 100 most influential people in the NFL. In 2019,

The Athletic put McKay in The NFL's 100 most influential business people of all-time and in December of 2023, McKay received the Atlanta Sports Council's Lifetime Achievement Award.

McKay was promoted to his latest role in January, 2023. As CEO of AMBSE, McKay oversees the business operations of the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium and the shared services functions that support the entire AMBSE portfolio. AMBSE President Tim Zulawski, Falcons President Greg Biedles and United CEO Garth Lagerwey, as well as senior leaders of AMBSE's shared services, report to him.

McKay played a central role in the development, opening and operation of Mercedes-Benz Stadium in addition to his Falcons duties. With the stadium built and operating with a best-in-class

leadership team, led by then-AMBSE CEO Steve Cannon, McKay returned his focus to a larger role in the operation of the Falcons. He led the 2021 search that resulted in Arthur Smith being named the Falcons' 18th head coach and Terry Fontenot being named the organization's 11th general manager.

McKay was the point person in the negotiation, development and building of Mercedes-Benz Stadium, a process that began in earnest in 2008. Working closely with Blank, the city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia and the Georgia World Congress Center Authority, McKay helped to secure approval and financing for Mercedes-Benz Stadium and created a true public-private partnership. The club broke ground on Mercedes-Benz Stadium on May 19, 2014, and it was completed in August of 2017 and serves as the home of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United. He is the only executive to have led two successful stadium negotiations (Atlanta and Tampa Bay). In April of 2014, McKay was named President of AMB Sports & Entertainment (AMBSE) which oversees the Falcons, Atlanta United and Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

McKay has served as a member of the NFL's Competition Committee since 1994, which is longer than any member has ever served since the committee's inception in 1968. He has led the committee as co-chairman (1998-2011) or chairman (2011-current) since 1998. The committee is comprised of NFL head coaches and League executives who study the game and recommend rule

changes and modifications to ensure player safety while promoting competitiveness. The Competition Committee has recommended and passed over fifty (50) player safety rules changes since 2002. In addition to his commitment to advancing the game, McKay has been involved in the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with the National Football League Players Association and was highly involved in the negotiations that led to the ten year collective bargaining agreement signed in 2011 and the newest ten year agreement that was executed in 2021.

Prior to joining the Falcons, McKay spent 10 years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, serving as general manager. While serving as general manager for Tampa Bay (1994-2003) and Atlanta (2004-2008), McKay was the architect of a Super Bowl winning team (Super Bowl XXXVII) as well as six teams that reached the playoffs and three that advanced to the NFC Championship game. During his 15 seasons in the General Manager role, his teams compiled an overall record of 112-96 with a playoff record of 6-5. As a GM, McKay worked with three different NFL head coaches who have guided their respective teams to NFC Championship games – Tony Dungy in 1999 with Tampa Bay, Jon Gruden in 2002 with Tampa Bay and Jim Mora in 2004 with Atlanta.

McKay's personnel scouting acumen was a successful formula which produced 59 players that played in the Pro Bowl during his time as an NFL General Manager. McKay showed his eye



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EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

for talent when he drafted eight players in the 1997 draft class that went on to play a combined 1,175 games, with 772 starts over their careers. Those players helped contribute to Tampa Bay's 41 Pro Bowl selections between 1997 through 2002, which were the most in the NFL. To put it into perspective, the Buccaneers only had 19 Pro Bowl selections in the first 21 years of their history leading up to 1997.

One of McKay's proudest accomplishments is that 11 of his former lieutenants have risen through the ranks to sit in the general manager's chair at other NFL franchises.

While many of the players McKay drafted developed into Pro Bowl performers on the field, several have been stars in their community. Atlanta Falcons Limited Partner Warrick Dunn, whom McKay drafted in 1997 with Tampa Bay, was the recipient of the 2004 Walter Payton/NFL Man of the Year award. This award is presented annually to the NFL's most philanthropic player. Derrick Brooks, who was also a draft selection of McKay's, was also a co-recipient of the award in 2000.

The McKay family is one of the most successful football families with substantial roots in both the collegiate and professional game. Rich's late father, the legendary John McKay, led the University of Southern California Trojans to four national championships in 16 seasons. In 2019, ESPN ran a list of the 150 greatest teams in college football's

150-year history and McKay had four of the top 70 teams and the 3rd ranked team of all time.

Rich's older brother J.K. McKay, was a starting wide receiver for the Trojans and part of two national championship teams [1972 & 1974] in addition to playing in three Rose Bowl games while playing for his father. The third generation of McKay's in the football business won a Super Bowl in 2021. Rich's son, John, is the Director of Pro Scouting for the Super Bowl Champion Los Angeles Rams. Between the four McKay's, they have won six national championships, participated as a player or coach in 12 Rose Bowls, participated as a coach, player or team executive in seven NFL conference championship games, won two National Collegiate Coach of the Year Awards, won one XFL Championship as a general manager, and won one Super Bowl as a general manager and one as a Director of Pro Personnel.

Both Coach McKay and Rich McKay saw their first draft picks selected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Lee Roy Selmon was the first pick for John McKay as a head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1976 while Warren Sapp was the first pick for Rich McKay in 1995. After the enshrinement of Sapp and Derrick Brooks, Rich McKay became the first and only general manager in NFL history to have his first two draft picks go on to be first-ballot members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Another first, McKay's first head

coach hire, Dungy, was named to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016 while Ronde Barber became the third player drafted by McKay in Tampa to be inducted in 2023.

McKay earned his bachelor's degree in Economics in 1981 from Princeton University, graduated from Stetson's College of Law in 1984, clerked for two years for Tampa's U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges, and was inducted into the Stetson Law Hall of Fame on November 2014. McKay worked at the Tampa law firm of Hill, Ward, and Henderson, P.A., from 1986-1992 where he served as General Counsel for the Buccaneers. Born March 16, 1959, in Eugene, Oregon, McKay grew up in Los Angeles and Tampa, graduating from Tampa's Jesuit High School.

As an avid long-distance runner, Rich has participated in and finished six marathons including two New York City Marathons, an Atlanta Marathon, and the Los Angeles Marathon in 2013 and in 2016, and the 2019 San Diego marathon.

McKay and his wife, Terrin, have two sons; Hunter, a 2012 graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama who is employed in the Sports Information Office at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga., and John, a 2015 graduate of the University of Southern California is the director of pro scouting for the Los Angeles Rams.



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PRESIDENT

GREG BEADLES



Having started with the Atlanta Falcons as an intern after earning a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and master's degree from Georgia State University, Beadles began his 29th year (2023) with the club being named president of the team. In his almost three decades with the organization, Beadles has held numerous roles with the Falcons and AMBSE, including being part of the finance team that orchestrated the transfer of ownership of the Falcons from the Rankin Smith family to Arthur M. Blank in 2001. Known league wide as an expert in team and facility operations and finance, Beadles has built unique trust among his peers, colleagues and Blank himself on the strength of his financial acumen, business savvy, versatility and personal values.

A two-time CFO of the Year (Atlanta Business Chronicle), Beadles has provided leadership across AMBSE in business strategy, finance, technology, facility development and operations, and data and analytics. Working closely with Rich McKay, Beadles played a lead role in every aspect of developing, financing, design and construction of Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Since MBS opened in 2017, Beadles has led several functions that have allowed MBS to meet Blank's vision as a best-in-class fan experience venue for sports, entertainment and private events. He also played a central role in the organization's acquisition of an MLS expansion team that would become Atlanta United, and concepting and developing AMBSE into one of the leading multi-property sports and entertainment companies. Outside of his professional roles, Beadles is



a board member of the College Football Hall of Fame; is co-founding board chair of both the Oak Hill Classical School in Dacula, Ga., and the Arete Scholars Fund, a non-profit that has awarded academic scholarships to 15,000 low-income children since 2010.

As Atlanta Falcons president, Beadles reports to AMBSE and Atlanta Falcons CEO Rich McKay and assumes day-to-day oversight of finance, operations, marketing, digital, communications,

human resources and community relations, as well as shared functions related to game presentation, retail, sales, and service. Beadles' father spent over 50 years as a basketball coach and athletic director, mostly in Georgia, so his career, passion for the state, and ties to the Falcons are deeply rooted. Beadles, his wife Jill, and their children (Ella, Grant, Evie, and Hudson) reside in metro Atlanta.

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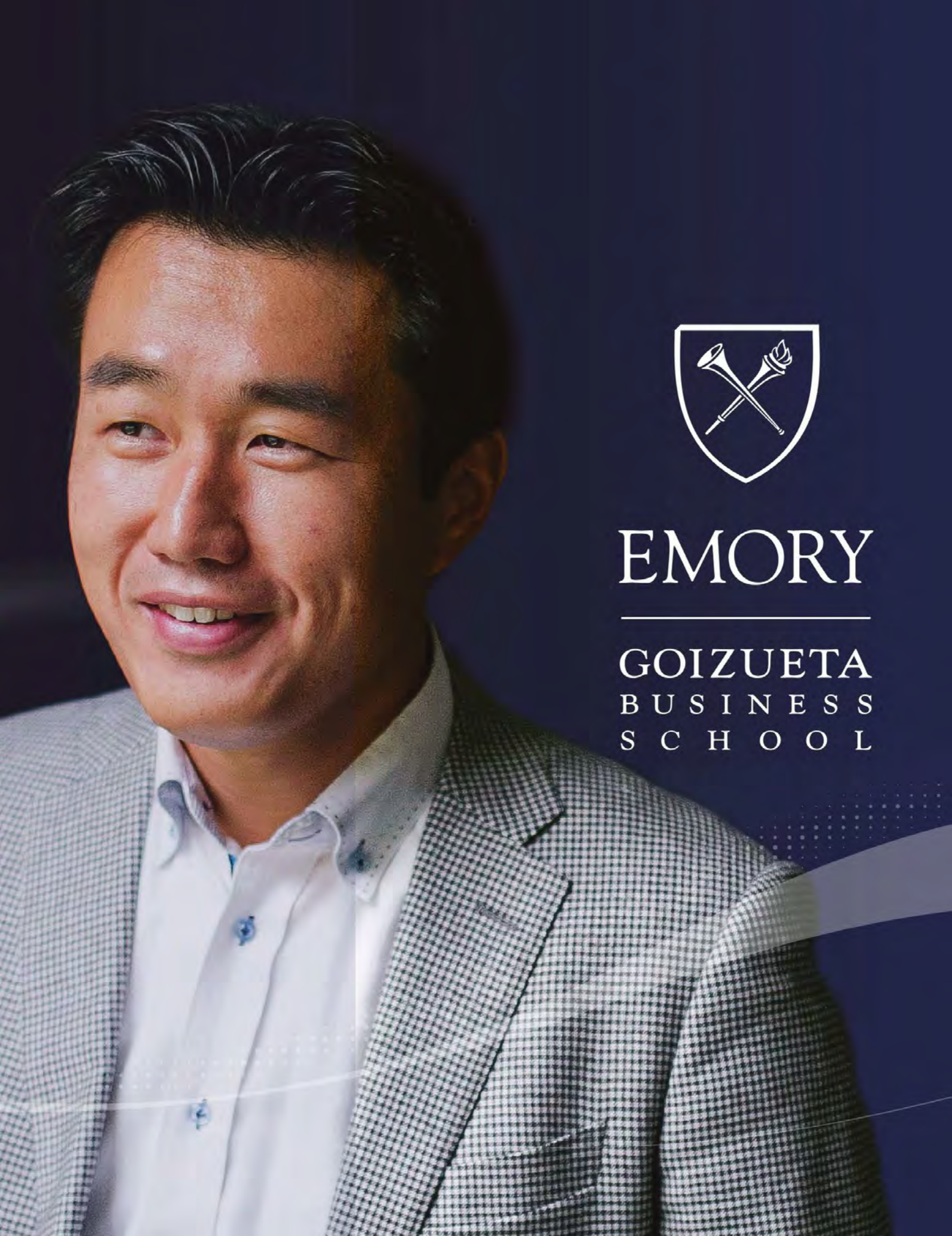
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FOOTBALL OPERATIONS, GENERAL MANAGER

TERRY FONTENOT



Terry Fontenot was named general manager of the Atlanta Falcons on Jan. 19, 2021.

Fontenot joined the Falcons after spending the previous 18 seasons as a member of the New Orleans Saints organization. He worked his way through the organization's ranks, starting out as a marketing intern before switching to the scouting department and climbing the ladder from intern to pro scout, and eventually advancing to vice president/assistant general manager of pro personnel.

In 2022, Atlanta finished with a 7-10 record, winning six games at Mercedes-Benz Stadium—the most since the stadium opened in 2017. The Falcons led the NFL in fewest penalties, finished third in the league in rushing yards per game and 10th in third-down conversion rate. Atlanta also had the third-highest successful play rate on rushing attempts, based on EPA, at 45.1 percent.

Atlanta's rushing attack averaged 74.5 more rushing yards per game in 2022 than it did in 2021, resulting in the largest one-season improvement by any team since at least 2001. With Cordarrelle Patterson (340), Tyler Allgeier (324), Marcus Mariota (280) and Caleb Huntley (265), the Falcons became the first team to have four players with at least 250 rushing yards through the first eight games of a season in NFL history. Additionally, Allgeier surpassed Williams Andrews (1,023 in 1979) for the most rushing yards by a rookie in franchise history and became the sixth rookie in the NFL, selected in the fifth round-or-later, to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards over the past 20 seasons. Patterson also set single-season career highs for rushing yards (695) and rushing touchdowns (eight).

Rookie quarterback Desmond Ridder started

the final four games of the 2022 season and completed 73-of-115 passes (63.5 percent) for 708 yards, two touchdowns and zero interceptions for an 86.4 passer rating. Ridder's 73 completions and 708 passing yards were the most by a player over his first four career starts in franchise history. Additionally, the Cincinnati product became only the third rookie to attempt at least 100 passes and not record an interception in his first four career starts in NFL history, joining Dak Prescott and Gardner Minshew.

First-round selection Drake London finished his rookie season with 72 receptions for 866 yards and four touchdowns, surpassing Kyle Pitts (68 in 2021) for the most receptions by a rookie in franchise history. With Allgeier (1,035 rushing yards) and London (866 receiving yards), the 2022 Atlanta Falcons became the fourth team to have a 1,000-yard rookie rusher and an 800-yard rookie receiver in the same season in NFL history, joining the 2010 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2004 Detroit Lions and 2003 Houston Texans.

Defensively, in addition to leading the league in fewest defensive penalties per game (1.06), Atlanta's defense limited opponents to the second-fewest second half points per game, allowing only 7.9 points per game after halftime.

In his first year, the Falcons posted a 7-10 record, winning seven of nine games decided by one possession after winning two of 10 such games the season prior. Nine-year veteran running back Cordarrelle Patterson set single-season then career highs for rushing yards (618), receiving yards (548), rushing touchdowns (six)

and receiving touchdowns (five), and became the first player to record at least five rushing and five receiving touchdowns in a single season in franchise history.

Additionally, Pitts became the second rookie tight end to surpass 1,000 receiving yards in NFL history, joining Pro Football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka (1,076 yards in 1961). Pitts broke the single-season franchise record for most receiving yards by a tight end with 1,026, surpassing Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez (930 in 2012), and set the record for most receiving yards by a rookie regardless of position, surpassing Julio Jones (959 in 2011). Pitts also became the first rookie tight end to be selected to the Pro Bowl since New York's Jeremy Shockey in 2002.

In New Orleans, Fontenot served as a close confidant for general manager Mickey Loomis and managed the pro personnel department include player acquisitions and evaluating players. With Fontenot leading the pro personnel department, the Saints showed a keen eye for adding impact players through free agency.

Although he spent much of his career on the pro scouting side, serving as a pro scouting intern, player personnel assistant and pro scout before his promotion to director of pro scouting, Fontenot saw his role expand in scope starting in 2015. After Ryan Pace was hired as the general manager of the Chicago Bears, Fontenot began working closely with college scouting director, and former Dolphins GM, Jeff Ireland, Loomis and head coach Sean Payton to develop a versatile group that could identify players that fit the team's vision, whether they were on NFL rosters, practice squads, free agents, college players or otherwise.

Free agents who signed with the Saints from 2015-2020 that went on to earn Pro Bowl honors included tight end Jared Cook, linebacker Demario Davis, kicker Wil Lutz and guard Larry Warford, along with center Max Unger who the Saints acquired in a trade with Seattle.

In 2012, Fontenot attended the Stanford Business School's Executive Education NFL-Stanford Program for Managers, an education program and honor known across the league as training ground for promising executives.

A native of Lake Charles, La., he was an all-state defensive back at Lagrange High School. A four-year letterman at safety for Tulane (1999-2002), Fontenot served as a team captain in 2001 and was a member of the 2002 team that won the Hawaii Bowl. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business and organizational information technology.



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HEAD COACH

RAHEEM MORRIS



Raheem Morris was named the 19th head coach in Atlanta Falcons history on January 25, 2024. He takes over the club after spending the past three seasons (2021-23) as defensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams. During his tenure with the Rams, Los Angeles made two postseason appearances and captured a title in Super Bowl LVI.

Over the past three seasons, Los Angeles' defense has recorded the fourth-best red zone efficiency rating and the seventh-fewest rushing yards per game in the NFL. His 2023 unit was one of the youngest in the NFL but helped the Rams earn a playoff berth and featured Rams third-round rookie defensive linemen Kobie Turner, a finalist for the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year award. Turner and Byron Young tallied a combined 17 sacks, finishing first and second among all rookies. Turner's nine sacks matched three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald's franchise rookie record (nine in 2014), while Young's eight sacks ranked third among rookies in franchise history.

In 2022, Morris led a Rams defense that led the NFL in red zone efficiency (44.4 percent), ranked second in goal-to-go efficiency (53.3 percent), seventh in interceptions (16) and ninth in defensive total rush EPA (42.97). During the 2021 season that culminated in a Super Bowl title, Los Angeles' defense averaged 1.5 takeaways per game and featured three players – Donald, Leonard Floyd and Von Miller – ranked in the top 20 in sacks. Additionally, Morris' unit ranked third in sacks (50) and fifth in tackles for loss (85) during the regular season.

Additionally in 2021, the Rams defense ranked sixth in the NFL in opponents rushing yards per game (103.2) and fifth in yards per rush (3.96). Morris' unit held opponents to a 51.8 percent red zone efficiency rate, which ranked eighth. Morris also led a secondary that ranked fifth in opponent passer rating (83.8) and third in interceptions (19). The secondary finished second in the NFL with 17 opponent passing touchdowns allowed and a 0.89 opponent touchdown-to-interception ratio.

Prior to Los Angeles, Morris spent six seasons (2015-20) with the Falcons in a variety of roles including assistant head coach/passing game coordinator (2015, 2017-18), assistant head coach/wide receivers (2016), assistant head coach/wide receivers/secondary (2019) and defensive coordinator (2020) before serving as Atlanta's interim head coach for the final 12 weeks of the 2020 season. Under the guidance of Morris, the Falcons finished the 2020 season tied for sixth in the league in red zone defense (82.1 percent) and sixth in rush defense (104.8 yards per game).

Morris began the 2019 season focused on the receiving corps but turned his attention to the secondary after the week nine bye week. Over the final eight games, the team went 6-2 and the defense improved from the lowest number of takeaways in the first half of the season (4) to finishing with the second most in the NFL (16) over the second half of the season. The defense also vaulted from the bottom of the league rankings to the top 10 in sacks (32nd to 10th), scoring efficiency (32nd to 9th) and red zone efficiency (31st to 6th) over the final eight weeks of the season.

In 2018, Morris' coaching played a part in helping the offensive average 290.8 passing yards per game, the fourth-best average in the league. The passing attack continued to improve from 2017 to 2018, with the offense averaging 50 more passing yards per game and totaling 15 more passing touchdowns than in the previous year. Under Morris' guidance, first-round draft pick Calvin Ridley led all rookies in receiving yards (821) and touchdowns (10). He also oversaw another great year from seven-time Pro Bowler, Julio Jones. Jones recorded 1,677 receiving yards, the second-highest total in his career, and hauled in 113 passes, the third time in his career with 100+ receptions in a season.

During Morris' second year as the wide receivers coach in 2017, his receivers pulled in 214 receptions for 2,848 yards and 13 touchdowns. Morris' coaching played a hand in Mohamed Sanu topping his then career-high for receptions, a mark he set the previous year under Morris' teaching. Sanu finished the year with 67 recep-

tions for 703 yards and tied a career-high with five touchdown receptions. Morris also oversaw another impressive year from Jones, who was selected to go to his fourth straight Pro Bowl after hauling in 88 receptions for 1,444 yards and three touchdowns.

After spending his first season with the team as assistant head coach/defensive passing game coordinator, Morris transitioned to the offensive side of the ball in 2016 and was named the assistant head coach/wide receivers coach. In his first season coaching the wide receivers, Morris worked with one of the best receivers in the game in Jones. Jones recorded 1,409 receiving yards, which was second in the NFL that season while his entire receiving group teamed up for 223 catches for 3,226 yards and 22 touchdowns. The unit included Taylor Gabriel, who recorded a career-high six receiving touchdowns and Sanu who tallied a then career-high 59 receptions.

During Morris' first year in Atlanta, he was named the assistant head coach/defensive passing game coordinator. The defense only allowed 19 passing touchdowns, which was tied for the third-lowest total in the NFL while recording 15 interceptions, which ranked within the top 10 in the league. The numbers gave the defense a 1.27 touchdown-to-interception ratio, the seventh-best TD/Int ratio in 2015.

Morris joined the Falcons after spending three seasons as defensive backs coach for the Washington Commanders. In 2012, he helped Washington's defense finish tied for fifth in the NFL with 31 takeaways and tie a league high with 94 passes defended. Washington scored four defensive touchdowns in 2012, including two from the secondary.

Prior to arriving in Washington, Morris spent three seasons as the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2009-2011. He was the league's youngest head coach in 2009 and in 2010, as his team finished with a 10-6 record. The Buccaneers made their best turnaround in franchise history in 2010 after going 3-13 in 2009.

Morris served in multiple capacities with the Buccaneers during two different stints with the team before he was promoted to head coach. He spent two seasons as the team's defensive backs coach from 2007-08, during which time the Buccaneers ranked second in the NFL allowing 170.5 passing yards per game. During that span, the Buccaneers ranked among the league leaders with 22 interceptions.

He spent one year as the defensive coordinator at Kansas State in 2006, where he helped seven Wildcats earn All-Big 12 honors. Morris' unit featured two first-team All-Big 12 selections



COACHES



MORRIS' COACHING BACKGROUND

2024	Head Coach Atlanta Falcons
2021-23	Defensive Coordinator Los Angeles Rams
2020	Interim Head Coach Atlanta Falcons
2020	Defensive Coordinator Atlanta Falcons
2019	Asst. Head Coach/Wide Receivers Atlanta Falcons
2018	Asst. Head Coach/Passing Game Coord. Atlanta Falcons
2017	Asst. Head Coach/Passing Game Coord./WRs Atlanta Falcons
2016	Asst. Head Coach/Wide Receivers Atlanta Falcons
2015	Asst. Head Coach/Passing Game Coord. Atlanta Falcons
2012-14	Defensive Backs Washington Commanders
2009-11	Head Coach Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2007-08	Defensive Backs Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2006	Defensive Coordinator Kansas State
2004-05	Asst. Defensive Backs Coach Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2003	Defensive Assistant Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2002	Defensive Quality Control Tampa Bay Buccaneers
2001	Defensive Minority Intern New York Jets
2000-01	Defensive Backs Hofstra
1999	Defensive Backs/Special Teams Asst. Cornell
1998	Graduate Assistant Hofstra



and one second-team honoree.

Morris made his NFL coaching debut with Tampa Bay as a defensive quality control coach in 2002, when the club won Super Bowl XXXVII. The Buccaneers defense allowed an NFL-low 12.3 points per game, the third-best scoring defense since 2000. He served as a defensive assistant with the Bucs in 2003 and as assistant defensive backs coach from 2004-05.

In 10 seasons in Tampa Bay, the Buccaneers

finished fifth in total defense five times, while leading the League in 2002 and 2005. He also helped the team finish as the top-rated pass defense three times (2002, 2004 & 2007).

Morris began his collegiate coaching career an assistant coach at Hofstra in 1998. He moved on to Cornell University as defensive backs coach and special teams assistant for the 1999 season. Morris served as defensive backs coach at Hofstra from 2000 to 2001 before joining the Bucca-

neers. He also held a defensive minority internship position with the New York Jets in the fall of 2001.

Morris played safety at Hofstra from 1994-97 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. The Irvington, N.J., native will be joined in Atlanta by his wife, Nicole, his daughter, Amaya, and their two children, Maliya and Jalen.

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COACHES



Zac Robinson was named Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator on Jan. 29, 2024.

Robinson comes to Atlanta after spending five seasons (2019-23) with the Los Angeles Rams where he served in a variety of roles, including quarterbacks/passing game coordinator (2022-23), assistant quarterbacks coach (2019; 2021) and assistant wide receivers coach (2020).

In 2023, Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford completed 326-of-521 attempts (62.6 percent) for 3,965 yards, 24 touchdowns and 11 interceptions for a 92.5 passer rating and earned Pro Bowl honors for the second time in his

career. Stafford ranked in the top 12 among quarterbacks in completions, passing yards and touchdown passes.

With Robinson as passing game coordinator, Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua recorded the most receptions (105) and receiving yards (1,486) by a rookie in NFL history, earning second-team AP All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors. Nacua also set the NFL record for most receiving yards by a rookie in a playoff game in NFL history with 181 yards against Detroit.

In 2022, the Rams started four different quarterbacks due to injury; however, Stafford completed a career-high 68 percent of his passes before being sidelined. Robinson was instrumental in onboarding mid-season acquisition Baker Mayfield, who led the Rams on a game-winning drive against the Raiders despite joining the team only two days prior. Under Robinson's tutelage, Mayfield completed 82-of-129 passes for 850 yards and four touchdowns in five games for Los Angeles.

Robinson served as assistant quarterbacks coach in 2021, working with the newly acquired Stafford, who finished the season ranked in the top five in passing yards (4,886), passing first downs (233), yards per attempt (8.13) and touchdown passes (41), matching his career high. Los Angeles' passing attack completed the third-most completions of more than 20 yards in the NFL with 65 en route to a victory in Super Bowl LVI.

In 2020, with Robinson serving as assistant wide receivers coach, Rams wide receivers Cooper Kupp and Robert Woods led the team with 974 and 936 receiving yards, respectively. Los Angeles' offense finished 11th in total yards per game (377) and 13th in passing yards

per game (250.9).

Robinson began his NFL coaching career as assistant quarterbacks coach for the Rams in 2019. He was influential in the continued growth of quarterback Jared Goff, who became the first quarterback in franchise history to pass for more than 4,000 yards in consecutive seasons.

Prior to joining the Rams, Robinson served as a senior analyst for Pro Football Focus where he was one of the site's primary pro and college quarterback evaluators dating back to 2016. Following his professional playing career, Robinson began giving instruction to college and NFL quarterbacks in 2014. He received his first coaching opportunity in 2015 as an instructor at The Quarterback Ranch in Southlake, Texas, where he led college and NFL instruction for the renowned quarterback development camp.

Robinson was originally selected by the New England Patriots in the seventh round (250th overall) of the 2010 NFL Draft. In addition to New England, he also spent time with the Seattle Seahawks, Detroit Lions and Cincinnati Bengals.

As a three-year starting quarterback at Oklahoma State, Robinson finished his collegiate career among the all-time offensive leaders in program history, compiling 8,317 passing yards and 88 total touchdowns, including 66 through the air.

A native of Littleton, Colo., he was named an All-Colo-rado selection at quarterback while competing in both football and track at Chatfield Senior High School. Robinson, and his wife, Mia, have a daughter, Madi, and a son, Cooper.



Jimmy Lake was named the Atlanta Falcons defensive coordinator on Jan. 29, 2024.

Lake comes to Atlanta having previously served as assistant head coach of the Los Angeles Rams in 2023. During his time with the Rams, Lake helped the team bounce back from a 5-12 season in 2022 to post a 10-7 record and earn a Wild Card playoff berth.

Lake joined the Rams following two seasons as head coach at the University of Washington where he oversaw some of the nation's top defensive units and developed several NFL prospects. His first season as the Huskies' head coach was the COVID-shortened 2020 season, during which he led the team to a 3-1 record and won the Pac-12 North Division title. Washington led the conference in total defense and saw four players earn first-team

All-Pac-12 honors.

Prior to being named the head coach, Lake spent the previous six seasons in various roles on Washington's staff, including defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach for two seasons from 2018-19. In 2019, Lake oversaw a unit that limited opposing offenses to 19.4 points per game despite losing nine defensive starters from the previous year. He helped Elijah Bolden earn second-team All-America and first-team All-Pac 12 honors, and Myles Bryant was named second-team all-conference. Lake also guided freshmen defensive backs Trent McDuffie and Cameron Williams to freshman All-America honors.

In his first year as the Huskies' defensive play caller, Lake fielded a defense that led the Pac-12 in scoring defense (15.5) and total defense (301.8 yards per game). The Huskies also ranked second in the conference in rushing defense, passing yards and passing efficiency.

Lake was Washington's co-defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach for two seasons from 2016-17. The Huskies led the Pac-12 and ranked eighth nationally in total defense, while also leading the conference and ranking fifth nationally in scoring defense in 2017. Washington also allowed the fewest yards per completion in the nation that season (9.42). In 2016, Washington rode its stellar defense to a 12-2 record and an appearance in the College Football Playoff. The Husky defense led the FBS in takeaways (33), ranked eighth in the country in scoring defense (17.7) and 12th in the nation in total defense (316.9). Washington finished the 2016 season leading the Pac-12 in first downs allowed and third down conversion rate, while ranking second in the conference red zone defense, rushing defense and sacks.

In 2015, as the defensive backs coach, Lake's unit helped the Huskies led the Pac-12 in scoring defense, total

defense and red-zone defense. Washington also ranked second in passing efficiency and rushing defense. He coached future NFL defensive backs Budda Baker and Sidney Jones to first-team all-conference honors. Lake joined Washington's staff in 2014, following head coach Chris Peterson from Boise State.

Lake spent two seasons at Boise State (2012-13) where he worked as the defensive backs coach and passing game coordinator. In 2013, he oversaw one of the top units in the Mountain West, allowing a conference-low 17 touchdown passes. The previous season, the Broncos defense ranked among the best in the nation in passing defense, passing efficiency, total defense and scoring defense.

Prior to landing in Boise, Lake spent two seasons with the Buccaneers, the second of two stints in Tampa Bay, coaching the defensive backs. He started his NFL career with the Bucs as an assistant defensive backs coach for two seasons from 2006-07 before taking over as the Detroit Lions defensive backs coach.

Lake spent one year at Montana State in 2005 where he coached a secondary that led the Big Sky conference allowing just 165.6 passing yards per game. Prior to Montana State, he was the secondary coach at Washington.

Lake got his coaching start at his alma mater, Eastern Washington, coaching the secondary from 2000-03. He was an All-Big Sky honorable mention as a strong safety and an academic all-conference selection, graduating from Eastern Washington with a degree in business administration in 2000.

A native of Walnut Creek, Calif., Lake lived in Turkey and the Philippines among other places before settling in Spokane, Wash., as his father served in the U.S. Air Force. He and his wife, Michele, have three children: Jimmy Jr., Faith and Bronson.



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COACHES



Marquice Williams was named Atlanta Falcons special teams coordinator on Jan. 21, 2021.

Williams returns for his fourth season with the Falcons as special teams coordinator. Since joining the staff in 2021, he has helped kicker Younghoe Koo convert on 91-of-103 field goal attempts (88.3 percent), the sixth-best mark in the league. Koo has also made seven game-winning field goals with time expiring, tied with Las Vegas' Daniel Carlson for the most in the NFL in that span.

In 2023, Williams helped Koo connect on 32-of-37 field goal attempts (86.5 percent) in addition to making 27-of-28 extra points for a total of 123 points scored in 2023, en route to earning two NFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors (Weeks 7 and 16). With 123 points scored on the season, Koo (591) passed Mick Luckhurst (558) to set the franchise record for most points scored in franchise history. Under Williams' guidance, punter Bradley Pinion punted 75 times for 3,110 net punting yards, including a long of 66 yards. He notched 11 punts inside the 10-yard line, tied for fifth-most in the league.

Williams was also a participant in the Ozzie Newsome General Manager Forum and the Quarterback Coaching Summit in 2023. The event is designed for the most promising front office personnel and coaches on the offensive side of the ball, representing the NFL's commitment to developing a diverse and inclusive workforce and providing

opportunities for minority candidates.

In 2022, Atlanta was one of two teams to have special teams units score multiple touchdowns during the season – a Lorenzo Carter scoop and score off of a blocked punt in Week 2 and a Cordarrelle Patterson 103-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in Week 11. Under Williams' guidance, the Falcons blocked multiple punts (Troy Andersen – Week 2; Richie Grant – Week 17) for the first time in a season since at least 2000. Ade Ogundejí also recorded his second-career blocked field goal in two seasons with Williams, blocking a Justin Tucker field goal in Baltimore in Week 16.

As successful as the punt and field goal rush units were in 2022, Atlanta's returners had a special season as well. Patterson's 103-yard kickoff return for a touchdown was the ninth of his career, setting a new NFL record for the most career kickoff return touchdowns in NFL history. Patterson would be named NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Week 11. Additionally, second-year returner Avery Williams returned 18 punts for 292 yards and led the NFL with 16.2 yards per punt return in 2022 (min. 15 att.).

Atlanta kicker Younghoe Koo closed the 2022 season making 12-of-12 field goal attempts, including three from 50-plus, earning NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December and January. In two seasons with Williams serving as special teams coordinator, Atlanta has had multiple NFC Special Teams Player of the Month honors.

Following the 2022 season, Atlanta's coaching staff was selected to coach the East team at the 2023 East/West Shrine Game in its first year with full coaching staffs from NFL teams. Williams represented the organization as the team's head coach.

In Williams' first season with Atlanta, Falcons kicker Younghoe Koo connected on 27-of-29 field goal attempts and all 30 of his PATs, and led the league with three game-winning field goals in the regular season. Atlanta's punter Thomas Morstead punted 22 times for 1,015 yards (46.1 avg., 41.0 net avg.), including 11 inside the 20-yard line. Morstead earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week in Week 12 at Jacksonville and NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December. Atlanta's long snapper Josh Harris recorded a career-high seven special teams tackles, earned second-team AP All-Pro honors and was selected to his first-career Pro Bowl. Under Williams' tutelage, Falcons rookie Avery Williams returned 23 kickoffs for 490 yards (21.3 avg.), 20 punt returns for 153 yards (7.7 avg.) and totaled six special teams tackles, two forced fumbles and

two fumble recoveries.

Williams joined the Falcons after spending two seasons with the Detroit Lions where he served as an assistant special teams coach.

During that time, he helped Jamal Agnew total 1,237 yards on 45 kickoff returns – the fourth-most in the NFL – while averaging 27.5 yards per return and breaking a return 100 yards for a touchdown. Agnew tied for the league lead with two total return touchdowns in 2019. With Williams assistance, Matt Prater converted 47-of-59 field goal attempts, including 10-of-13 from 50-plus yards with a long kick of 59 yards.

In 2020, under Williams' tutelage, Lions punter Jack Fox recorded the highest gross average (49.1) and net average (44.8) in a punter's first season in NFL history. Additionally, Fox's 44.8 net average was the third highest in a single season in league history. The rookie punter became the first Lions punter to be named to the Pro Bowl since 1988 and earned AP second-team All-Pro honors.

Also in 2020, Lions kicker Matt Prater connected on his 59th-career made field goal of at least 50 yards, surpassing Sebastian Janikowski (58) for the most made field goals of 50-or-more yards in NFL history.

Prior to joining the Lions in 2019, he spent three seasons (2016-18) with the Los Angeles Chargers coaching staff. As a defensive assistant with the Chargers in 2018, Williams assisted the ninth-best defensive unit (333.7 yards per game) in the league and guided rookie safety Derwin James and veteran safety Adrian Phillips to their first-career Pro Bowl.

Williams began his coaching career in 2010 as the linebackers/assistant special teams coach at Winona State University before moving on to assistant coaching positions with Central Oklahoma (2011) and South Dakota (2012-15). In 2015, Williams participated in the NFL's Bill Walsh Minority Coaching Fellowship program with the Lions, where he served as a coaching intern for linebackers and special teams. Williams got his first opportunity with the Minority Coaching Fellowship with the Chicago Bears from 2013-14. He also served as the special teams coordinator for the East/West Shrine Game in 2017 and 2018.

A native of Fresno, Calif., Williams was a two-year starter at defensive back at Fresno City College before going on to start at the University of Mary (N.D.) from 2006-07. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children.



Tim Berbenich was named Atlanta Falcons pass game specialist/game management on Feb. 3, 2024.

Berbenich joins the Falcons after spending the 2023 season as a coaching analyst for the Los Angeles Rams.

Prior to his time with the Rams, Berbenich spent one season with the Houston Texans where he was the team's tight ends coach. Under Berbenich's guidance, Jordan Akins posted 37 receptions for 495 yards with five touchdowns and his 13.4 yards per catch led all tight ends.

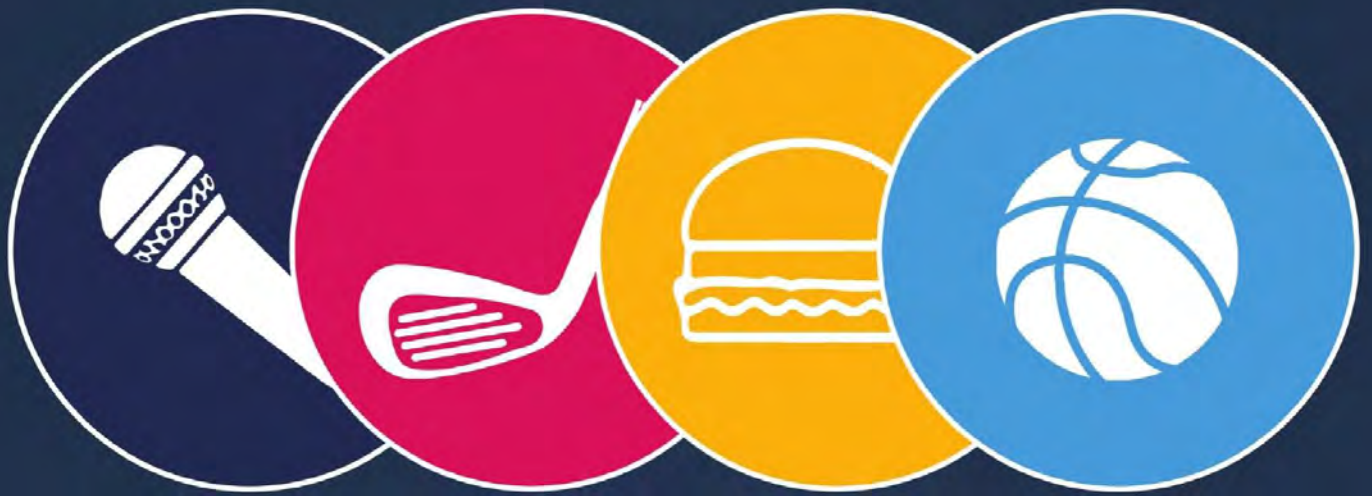
Berbenich spent three seasons as an offensive quality control coach for the Raiders (2018-20) before being promoted to running backs coach in 2021. That season, Josh Jacobs tallied 872 rushing yards on 217 carries with nine touchdowns while averaging 4.0 yards per carry.

Prior to his time with the Raiders, Berbenich spent five seasons with the Indianapolis Colts working in various roles, including offensive assistant (2013-14), offensive assistant/assistant quarterbacks (2016-17), and defensive assistant (2015). Working with Andrew Luck in 2016, Berbenich helped the quarterback pass for 4,240 yards with 31 touchdowns while posting a QB rating of 96.4. The

following season, Jacoby Brissett filled in for an injured Luck and threw for 3,098 yards with 13 scores and an 81.7 passer rating.

Berbenich spent six seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2006 to 2011 filling a multitude of roles. From 2009-11, he was the team's assistant wide receivers coach. During that time, he worked with Mike Williams who finished second in AP Offensive Rookie of the Year voting after posting 65 catches, 964 receiving yards and 11 touchdowns in 2010. Berbenich also spent one season (2008) as the assistant running backs coach, working with Warrick Dunn, as the future Falcons Limited Partner rushed for 786 yards and two touchdowns in his final season in the NFL. He also spent two seasons (2006-07) as the Bucs offensive quality control coach.

Berbenich began his NFL career with the Jets spending three seasons in New York as an offensive assistant (2003-04) and offensive quality control coach (2005). He graduated from Hamilton College and he has a wife and two sons.



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COACHES



K.J. Black was named Atlanta Falcons offensive assistant on Feb. 3, 2024.

Black comes to Atlanta after spending two seasons (2022-23) with the Los Angeles Rams. He served as an offensive assistant in 2023 after spending the 2022 as part of the Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship where he worked alongside Falcons Offensive Coordinator Zac Robinson.

In 2023, Black helped Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford complete 326-of-521 attempts (62.6 percent) for 3,965 yards, 24 touchdowns and 11 interceptions for a 92.5 passer rating and earned Pro Bowl honors for the second time in his career. Stafford ranked in the top 12 among quarterbacks in completions, passing yards and touchdown passes. Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua recorded the most receptions (105) and receiving yards (1,486) by a rookie in NFL history, earning second-team AP All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors. Nacua also set the NFL record for most receiving yards by a rookie in a playoff game in NFL history with 181 yards against Detroit.

As a coaching fellow during the 2022 season, Black played a pivotal role in the development of younger quarterbacks John Wolford and Bryce Perkins. During an injury-riddled season, both Wolford and Perkins saw playing time and made significant improvements while

working with Black. Wolford started three games in place of an injured Matthew Stafford and threw for 390 yards and one touchdown. Perkins appeared in four games, starting one, and threw for 161 yards and a touchdown, while rushing for 90 yards.

Prior to joining the Rams, Black served as co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Florida A&M. He joined the coaching staff at FAMU in 2019 as passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach. Under Black's leadership, Rattlers quarterback Ryan Stanley threw for 2,566 yards in 2019, earning MEAC Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Black started his coaching career in 2011 at his alma mater, Prairie View A&M, where he would serve in a variety of roles including graduate assistant (2011-14), passing game coordinator/quarterbacks coach (2015-17) and tight ends coach (2018).

As a player, Black played quarterback at Western Kentucky University before transferring to Prairie View A&M where he threw for 4,187 yards and 35 touchdowns over two seasons with the program. In 2009, he led the Panthers to the program's first SWAC Championship since 1964 and earned Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Black and his wife, Erin, have one daughter, Payton Dianne.



Shawn Flaherty was named Atlanta Falcons assistant offensive line coach on Feb. 27, 2023, after spending the 2022 season as a football analyst on Atlanta's coaching staff.

Flaherty came to Atlanta having spent three seasons (2019-21) as a member of the Miami Dolphins coaching staff, serving as a coaching assistant from 2019-20 and an assistant offensive line coach in 2021.

Over the final 10 weeks of the 2021 season, the Dolphins offensive line limited opponents to 21 sacks, tied for the 13th-fewest in the NFL over that span. Miami's running game also improved from 78.6 yards per game to 104.3

yards per game over the final 10 games of the season.

Prior to his time in Miami, Flaherty spent two seasons (2017-18) as a graduate assistant at North Carolina State University. In his role, Flaherty worked primarily with the offensive line under the tutelage of current Falcons offensive line coach Dwayne Ledford, who served in that same role for the Wolfpack from 2016-18.

Flaherty was a four-year letterman (2013-16) at Towson (Md.) University, where he started games at both guard and center, and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration.

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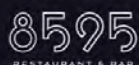
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COACHES



Jerry Gray was hired as the Atlanta Falcons Assistant Head Coach/Defense on Jan. 31, 2023.

In his first season with the Falcons, Atlanta's defense finished third in third-down conversion rate (33.8 percent), fourth in red zone efficiency (45.3 percent), eighth in passing yards per game (202.9) and 11th in total yards per game (321.1). The Falcons defense also recorded 42 sacks, tied for the sixth-most sacks in a single season in franchise history and finished the season tied for the second-most forced fumbles in the NFL with 19.

Additionally, Gray helped coach Falcons safety Jessie Bates III to the first Pro Bowl honors of his career. Bates also earned Associated Press second-team All-Pro honors for the second time in his career (2020) after finishing the season with career highs in tackles (132), interceptions (six) and forced fumbles (three), while adding 11 passes defended and three tackles for loss.

Gray has 27 years of NFL coaching experience, including one as assistant head coach/defense, eight as a defensive coordinator and 18 as defensive backs/secondary coach. In his 25 NFL seasons as a defensive coach, Gray has helped defenses to top-10 league rankings in scoring defense 10 times, in total defense 11 times and in passing defense 14 times. He has worked with defensive backs who have combined for 15 Pro Bowl selections in his 17 seasons coaching the position, with at least one of his players earning Pro Bowl recognition in 11 of those seasons. During Gray's time working with the secondary, seven different players earned first-team or second-team All-Pro honors from The Associated Press.

Gray served as the defensive backs/passing game coordinator for the Green Bay Packers from 2021-22. In his three seasons (2020-22) with Green Bay, the Packers have finished in the top 10 in passing defense in all three years.

In 2022, Green Bay's defense finished sixth in passing defense, limiting opponents to 197.0 yards per game, and tied for fourth in interceptions with 17. Under Gray's guidance, cornerback Jaire Alexander earned All-Pro honors from the Associated Press for the second time in three seasons with Gray. In 2020, Alexander became the first Packers cornerback to earn All-Pro honors since Charles Woodson in 2011.

In 2021, Gray helped the Packers finish in the top 10 in total defense (328.2 ypg.), passing defense (219.1 ypg.), takeaways (26) and interceptions (18). Cornerback Rasul Douglas had a career year, returning two interceptions for touchdowns, tie for the fourth-most in a season in franchise history.

Gray joined Green Bay after spending six seasons (2014-19) as the defensive backs coach for the Minnesota Vikings. During his time with Minnesota, he was a part of a defensive staff that helped the Vikings rank in the Top 10 in the league in scoring defense for five straight seasons (2015-19), one of only two teams in the NFL to do so over that span (New England). Minnesota ranked second in the NFL in scoring defense (19.3 ppg.) and third in overall defense (321.8 ypg.) and passing defense (214.7 ypg.) from 2014-19.

In Minnesota, Gray tutored safety Harrison Smith, who earned Pro Bowl recognition in five consecutive seasons (2015-19) and first-team all-pro honors in 2017. Gray also worked with cornerback Xavier Rhodes, who was selected to the Pro Bowl three times (2016-17, 2019) and earned first-team all-pro recognition in 2017 as the Vikings had two defensive backs earn first-team All-Pro honors in the same season for the first time since 1988.

In 2019, Gray's defensive backs helped the Vikings to Top 10 league rankings in scoring defense (18.9 ppg.), takeaways (31) and interceptions (17). Safety Anthony Harris, who entered the NFL as a college free agent in 2015, tied for the league lead with a career-high six interceptions in his first season as a full-time starter – becoming the first Viking to lead the NFL in the category since safety Brian Russell tied for the league lead in 2003.

The 2018 Vikings ranked fourth in the NFL in total defense (309.7 ypg.), the third straight season finishing in the top five in the league in the category. Under Gray's tutelage, Smith earned second-team all-pro honors as the team's defensive backs helped the Vikings lead the league in third-down defense (30.5 pct.) for the second straight season. In 2017, Minnesota led the NFL in both scoring defense (15.8 ppg.) and total defense (275.9 ypg.), marking the first time the Vikings had done so since 1970. Gray's secondary helped limit opponents to 192.4 passing yards per game – second in the NFL – in 2017, the best mark posted by Minnesota since 1993 (179.4 ypg.).

In 2016, Gray's defensive backs helped the Vikings rank sixth in scoring defense (19.2 ppg.) and third in both total defense (314.9 ypg.) and passing defense (207.9 ypg.). Rhodes and Smith both earned Pro Bowl recognition, giving Minnesota its first secondary duo in the Pro Bowl since cornerback Audray McMillian and safety Todd Scott in 1992. In 2015, the Vikings ranked fifth in the NFL in scoring defense (18.9 ppg.) and won their first NFC North title since 2009.

In Gray's first season with Minnesota in 2014, he helped the defense rank seventh in passing defense (223.3 ypg.) after the Vikings had finished 31st in the league in the category in 2013 (287.2 ypg.). Gray's group also helped engineer the largest improvement in the NFL in points allowed from 2013 to 2014 as the Vikings gave up just 343 points in 2014 (11th) after allowing 480 points in 2013 (32nd).

Prior to coming to Minnesota, Gray spent the previous three seasons (2011-13) as the defensive coordinator for the Tennessee Titans. In 2012, Gray's unit ranked seventh in the NFL in interceptions (19) and 10th in sacks (39). In his first season as coordinator with the Titans, the team finished eighth in the NFL in scoring defense (19.8 ppg.) and 10th in red-zone defense (47.9 percent).

In 2010, Gray served as the defensive backs coach for the Seattle Seahawks and tutored rookie safety Earl Thomas, who started all 16 games and ranked third among rookies with five interceptions.

From 2006-09, Gray coached the secondary for Washington, where he helped the team rank in the Top 10 in scoring defense in three consecutive seasons (2007-09) and in passing defense in back-to-back seasons (2008-09).

During his time with Washington, Gray tutored safety Sean Taylor, who earned two Pro Bowl selections (2006-07) and second-team All-Pro honors in 2007.

Gray spent the previous five seasons (2001-05) as the defensive coordinator for the Bills, helping the team rank second in total defense in back-to-back seasons (2003-04). The 2004 campaign also saw Buffalo finish in the Top 10 in scoring defense (17.8 ppg.), passing defense (164.0 ypg.), takeaways (39), interceptions (24) and sacks (45). The 2003 Bills ranked fifth in scoring defense (17.4 ppg.), second in passing defense (169.2 ypg.) and tied for ninth in sacks (38).

Gray coached the defensive backs for the Titans in 1999-2000, helping Tennessee's defense set a single-season franchise record for points allowed (11.9 ppg.) in 2000. That season saw the Titans lead the league in both total defense (238.3 ypg.) and passing defense (151.4 ypg.) – the only time in franchise history that the club led the NFL in both categories. Second-year cornerback Samari Rolle and safety Blaine Bishop both earned Pro Bowl recognition under Gray's tutelage in 2000, with Rolle earning first-team all-pro honors and Bishop taking home second-team all-pro recognition.

Gray's first NFL coaching job came in 1997-98 with the Tennessee Oilers as defensive quality control coach. He coached defensive backs at Southern Methodist University in 1995-96, starting at the school one season after retiring as a player.

As a player, Gray earned four Pro Bowl selections (1986-89), twice earned second-team all-pro honors (1986, 1989) and recorded 28 interceptions during his nine-year NFL career. Originally selected by the Los Angeles Rams in the first round (21st overall) of the 1985 NFL Draft, Gray went on to play seven seasons with the Rams (1985-91), one season with the Houston Oilers (1992) and one season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1993). Gray was named the NFL's Defensive Back of the Year by the NFLPA in 1989 and won Pro Bowl MVP honors in 1990. He posted at least six interceptions in a season three times from 1986-92, tied for the third-most in the NFL over that span.

Gray was a two-time consensus All-America selection at the University of Texas, where he also was twice named the Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Year as a safety (1983-84). He is a member of the University of Texas' All-Time Team and was selected to the school's All-Decade Team for the 1980s. Gray graduated with a degree in speech communications.

Gray was born Dec. 16, 1962, in Lubbock, Texas. He and his wife, Sherry, have two sons, Jeremy and Jayden. In 2002, Gray started the Jerry Gray Foundation, which supports youth in Lubbock and provides scholarships to the underprivileged.

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COACHES



Ike Hilliard was named Atlanta Falcons wide receivers coach on Feb. 1, 2024.

Hilliard comes to Atlanta having most recently served as co-offensive coordinator/wide receivers coach at Auburn in 2022 after spending 10 seasons as a wide receivers coach in the NFL for the Pittsburgh Steelers (2020-21), Washington Commanders (2012; 2014-19) and Buffalo Bills (2013).

At Auburn, Hilliard helped running back Tank Bigsby match his single-season career high with 10 rushing touchdowns, while recording a single-season career-high 5.4 yards per carry. Bigsby finished the season rushing for 970 yards on 179 attempts in his junior season before declaring for the NFL Draft where he was selected in the third round (88th overall) by the Jacksonville Jaguars. Under Hilliard's guidance, Tigers veteran wide receiver Ja'Varrius Johnson set single-season career highs in receptions (26), receiving yards (493) and receiving touchdowns (three).

While with Pittsburgh in 2021, Hilliard coached Diontae Johnson who earned All-Pro honors for the first time in his career after leading the Steelers with 107 receptions for 1,161 yards and eight touchdowns. In 2020, Pittsburgh became just the seventh team in NFL history to have five different players catch at least five touchdown passes in a single season - Chase Claypool (nine), JuJu Smith-

Schuster (nine), Diontae Johnson (seven), James Washington (five) and Eric Ebron (five). Claypool led all rookie receivers in touchdown receptions (nine), while finishing second among rookies in total touchdowns (11) and fourth among rookies in receiving yards (873).

With Washington, Hilliard helped Terry McLaurin compile one of the best rookie seasons by receiver in franchise history as he led the team in receptions (58), receiving yards (919) and touchdown catches (seven) in 2019. His 919 receiving yards and seven touchdowns ranked second in franchise history among rookies. In 2018, Hilliard played a major role in wide receiver Josh Doctson setting single season career highs in receptions (44) and receiving yards (532).

Hilliard guided a young wide receiver corps in 2017 that helped quarterback Kirk Cousins become the first player in team history to record a third consecutive 4,000-yard passing season. Jamison Crowder led Washington in receptions (66) and receiving yards (789), and at age 24 on the final day of the calendar year, became the youngest player to lead Washington in receptions since Gary Clark (24) in 1986.

Hilliard's group played a major role in Washington's record-setting offense in 2016, a unit that set single-season team records in yards per game (403.4), yards per play (6.40), net passing yards (4,758), completions (407), passing first downs (226) and 500-yard games (three). Veteran wideouts Pierre Garçon (1,041) and DeSean Jackson (1,005) both eclipsed the 1,000-yard mark on the season, representing the first time Washington featured multiple 1,000-yard receivers since 1999 (Albert Connell and Michael Westbrook).

During Washington's NFC East championship season in 2015, Hilliard coached a group that prominently featured two prolific veterans (Garçon and Jackson) and two young players in their first or second seasons (Crowder and Ryan Grant, respectively). Garçon posted 72 receptions, the second highest total of his career, while Jackson recorded 528 receiving yards and four touchdowns despite being limited by injury to nine games. Hilliard's guidance also helped Crowder to a Washington rookie record 59 receptions in 2015.

In his return to Washington in 2014, Hilliard coached the newly-acquired DeSean Jackson, who led Washington with

1,169 receiving yards on 56 receptions. Jackson became the player in franchise history to record 1,000 receiving yards in his first season in Washington (Bobby Mitchell in 1962, Henry Ellard in 1994, Laveranues Coles in 2003 and Santana Moss in 2005).

Hilliard served as wide receivers coach for the Buffalo Bills in 2013, helping mold a young group that included rookie second-round pick Robert Woods (40 receptions for 587 yards with three touchdowns) and rookie third-round pick Marquise Goodwin (17 receptions for 283 yards with three touchdowns).

In his first stint with Washington in 2012, Hilliard guided the team's receivers to the franchise's first division title since 1999. He incorporated free agents Pierre Garçon and Joshua Morgan into the offense, helping Garçon lead the team in receiving yards (633 in only 10 games) and helping Morgan lead Washington in receptions (48). Hilliard also oversaw the resurgence of veteran slot receiver Santana Moss, who caught 41 passes for 573 yards and eight touchdowns.

In 2011, Hilliard served as the assistant wide receivers coach for the Miami Dolphins. He helped in the development of wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who was named to his third-career Pro Bowl and first as a member of the Dolphins. Additionally, Marshall finished third in the AFC in receiving yards with 1,214 and recorded his fifth-consecutive 1,000-yard season.

Prior to joining the Dolphins, Hilliard spent two seasons coaching for the Florida Tuskers of the United Football League.

As a player, Hilliard was selected by the New York Giants in the first round (seventh overall) of the 1997 NFL Draft. He played 12 seasons - eight with the New York Giants (1997-2004) and four with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2005-08). In 161 career games (108 starts), Hilliard caught 546 passes for 6,397 yards and 35 touchdowns.

Hilliard played collegiately at the University of Florida from 1994-96, where he recorded 126 receptions for 2,214 yards and 26 touchdowns and earned first-team All-SEC and consensus All-American honors in 1996, as he helped lead the Gators to a national title.

Hilliard is a native of Patterson, La. He and his wife, Lourdes, have five children, Kye, Kaly, Leila, Ilysa and Jewels.



Justin Hood was named Atlanta Falcons secondary coach on Feb. 3, 2024.

Hood comes to Atlanta after spending three seasons (2021-23) with the Green Bay Packers as a defensive quality control coach.

In 2023, Hood was instrumental in helping the Green Bay defense finish the regular season ranking ninth in passing defense (206.8), ninth in red zone defense (50.88 percent) and 10th in opponent points per game (20.6) en route to the club's first playoff appearance since 2021.

The Packers held their opponents to 20 or fewer points nine times during the 2023 regular season, tied for the 10th-most in the league. Green Bay also had three players - Rashan Gary (nine), Preston Smith (eight), Kenny Clark (7.5) - record at least seven sacks each, the team's most in a single season since 2007 (three players). With eight sacks on the season, Smith became one of 11 players in the NFL to post at least eight sacks in each of his last three seasons (2021-23).

The 2022 season saw Hood help Green Bay finish near the top of the league in a few passing-defense categories, ranking sixth in passing yards allowed per game (197.0), sixth in interception rate percentage (3.56) and tied for

fourth with 17 INTs. The Packers were also one of only four teams (Baltimore, Kansas City, New York Jets) to hold 16 opponents under 30 points during the regular season, a franchise single-season high.

In 2021, Hood assisted with a defense that ranked in the top 10 in the NFL, finishing ninth in total defense (328.2 ypg), 10th in passing defense (219.1 ypg), tied for sixth in interceptions (18) and tied for eighth in takeaways (26). The unit's 328.2 yards allowed per game were the fewest by Green Bay since 2010 (309.1 ypg), while the 26 takeaways were the most registered by the Packers since 2014 (27).

Prior to Green Bay, Hood spent two seasons (2019-20) as the secondary coach and defensive pass game coordinator at Kent State. Under Hood's direction in 2020, safety Dean Clark led the Golden Flashes with 28 tackles (19 solo), an interception and a forced fumble as the team played a Covid-abbreviated four-game season.

In Hood's first year with the program in 2019, cornerback Jamal Parker earned second-team All-Mid-American Conference honors after recording 10 pass breakups, fourth most in the MAC, in addition to three interceptions, tied for fifth in the MAC. Defensive back Qwuantrizz Knight led the team with 11 tackles for a loss on the season and

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COACHES

was named the defensive MVP of Kent State's 51-41 victory over Utah State in the Tropical Smoothie Café Frisco Bowl (Dec. 20).

Hood spent three seasons (2016-18) coaching at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level prior to joining Kent State, serving two seasons (2018-17) at Davidson College before joining Western Carolina in 2018 where he coached outside linebackers. He originally joined Davidson's staff as a safeties coach and recruiting coordinator in 2016 before being promoted to defensive pass game coordinator in 2017. In December of 2017, Hood served as the interim head coach for the Wildcats.

Prior to his time at Davidson, Hood served as the

defensive coordinator for two seasons (2014-15) at Capital University where he primarily coached the defensive backs. In 2014, safety Jimmy Curtis earned All-Ohio Athletic Conference honorable mention after leading the team in tackles (59), passes defended (eight), forced fumbles (four) and interceptions (three).

Hood began his collegiate coaching career at the University of Oregon as a recruiting administrative assistant for two seasons (2010-11) before serving as an offensive intern and in quality control from 2011-12. He then worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Illinois for two seasons (2013-14), working with cornerbacks and maintaining responsibilities in scouting and film break-

down, while coaching the scout offense and special teams.

Hood gained his first NFL coaching experience as a Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellow for the New York Giants in August 2013 working with the running backs and managing the scout special teams.

The Youngstown, Ohio, native was a four-year starter (2004-07) and two-year captain at safety at Ashland University and earned second-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors as a senior.

Hood earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Ashland and earned his master's degree in education policy and leadership from Illinois. He and his wife, Sarah, have two daughters, Luca and Rowan.



Dave Huxtable was hired by the Atlanta Falcons as a senior defensive assistant on Feb. 27, 2023.

In his first season with the Falcons, Atlanta's defense tallied 42 sacks, tied for the sixth-most sacks in a single season in franchise history. The Falcons defense doubled its sack total from 2022 (21) resulting in the largest year-over-year increase by the Falcons since the individual sack became an NFL statistic in 1982.

In 2023, the Falcons defense finished third in third down defense and fourth in red zone efficiency. David Onyemata registered a career high in tackles (50), passes defended (three) and forced fumbles (two), while Calais Campbell finished with 6.5 sacks and became one of six active players to reach 100 career sacks. Third-round rookie defensive lineman Zach Harrison recorded three sacks in the month of December, tied for the third most among rookies. Additionally, Harrison's 17.6 percent pressure rate was the second highest among rookies from Week 13-17 in 2023.

Prior to Atlanta, Huxtable had 40 seasons of coaching

experience at the collegiate level – including 18 seasons as a defensive coordinator. He spent two seasons (2021-22) as an analyst for the University of Alabama from 2021-22. Before joining the Crimson Tide's staff, Huxtable spent one season (2020) as an analyst for the University of Texas after spending seven seasons (2013-19) as the defensive coordinator at North Carolina State University.

In 2018, North Carolina State ranked second in the ACC and 13th in the nation in rushing defense (109.1 yards per game). Additionally, linebacker Germaine Pratt earned first-team All-ACC honors after averaging more than nine tackles per game. In 2017, the Wolfpack ranked third in the conference in rushing yards per game, limiting opponents to 131 yards per game on the ground. Under Huxtable's tutelage, four Wolfpack defenders were selected in the 2018 NFL Draft, including the fifth-overall selection, Bradley Chubb. In 2016, NC State ranked eighth in the nation in rushing yards per game, limiting opponents to 108.8 yards per game – the fifth fewest in a season in program history.

Prior to his time at NC State, Huxtable spent one season as the defensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh where his Panthers defense ranked 16th in the nation in total defense (325.8 yards per game), 21st in scoring defense (19.7 points per game), 24th in rushing defense (129.1 yards per game) and 25th in passing defense (196.8). Defensive lineman Aaron Donald earned first-team All-Big East honors after leading the conference and ranking 11th nationally with 18.5 tackles for loss, while safety Jason Hendricks was a second-team selection after leading the Big East and tying for ninth nationally with five interceptions.

In 2011, Huxtable oversaw the development of first-team All-Big Ten linebackers Chris Borland and Mike Taylor. The linebacking pair led the Badgers to a Big Ten Championship and a Rose Bowl berth. Huxtable came to Wisconsin after spending seven seasons (2004-10) at the University of Central Florida where he spent four seasons (2004-07) coaching linebackers and special teams, and three seasons (2008-10) as the Knights' defensive coordinator. In his final

season at UCF, the Knights ranked eighth in the nation in scoring defense (17.1 points per game), eighth in rushing defense (108.4), and 15th in total defense (315.4). Defensive end Bruce Miller was a two-time C-USA Defensive Player of the Year and finished his career as UCF's career sacks leader with 35.5.

Huxtable spent three seasons (2001-03) at the University of North Carolina, coaching linebackers and special teams in 2001, before being named defensive coordinator and linebackers coach from 2002-03. Under Huxtable, David Thornton, a former walk-on, earned All-ACC honors and was selected in the NFL Draft. Falcons Head Coach Arthur Smith played along the Tar Heels offensive line while Huxtable was on staff at North Carolina.

Prior to his time at North Carolina, Huxtable spent one season (2000) at Oklahoma State as a linebackers coach/special teams coordinator and two seasons (1998-99) at East Carolina where he coached linebackers in 1998 and defensive line in 1999. Huxtable spent six seasons (1992-97) at Georgia Tech coaching linebackers. In 1996, Huxtable would earn defensive coordinator duties as well. During his time with the Yellow Jackets, Huxtable oversaw the development of Keith Brooking, who finished as the school's career tackles leader with 467 and was selected with the 12th overall pick in the first round of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Falcons.

Huxtable began his collegiate coaching career as a graduate assistant at Iowa State in 1982. From Ames, he would spend two seasons (1983-84) as the defensive coordinator at Independence (Kan.) CC, five seasons (1985-89) at Western Kentucky and two seasons (1990-91) at East Carolina where he coached Robert Jones, who earned consensus All-America honors, was selected in the first round of the 1992 NFL Draft and won three Super Bowls with the Dallas Cowboys.

Huxtable earned a bachelor's degree in education from Eastern Illinois in 1979. A native of Elgin, Ill., he and his wife, Vicki, have one son, Jake, and one daughter, Shea.



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COACHES



Nick Jones was named Atlanta Falcons assistant offensive line coach on Feb. 2, 2024.

Jones comes to Atlanta having previously served as assistant offensive line coach for the Los Angeles Rams from 2021-23. Jones helped coach an offensive line that paved the way for running back Kyren Williams, who finished third in the NFL with 1,144 yards on 228 attempts. The unit also blocked for quarterback Matthew Stafford who finished sixth in the NFL with 264.3 passing yards per game. With Jones' assistance, the Rams' offensive line held opponents to a 34.7 quarterback pressure rate, 11th in the NFL.

During the 2022 season, Jones worked primarily with an offensive line unit that started 11 different combinations of players in each of the first 11 games as a result of injuries. The Rams offensive line was forced to play at least three players at every position except right tackle. Despite the adversity, the Rams offensive line unit stepped up later in the season and didn't allow a sack in Week 16 against the Broncos and allowed just one sack in three games during the 2022 season. With the guidance of Jones, players such as Offensive Lineman Coleman Shelton and Tackle Alaric Jackson were able to emerge as starting-caliber players for the Rams last season. He has also played a role in the success of Center Brian Allen, Tackle Rob Havenstein and former Rams Guard David Edwards over the last few seasons.

Jones was also part of the Rams' coaching staff that worked with Super Bowl Champion and Walter Payton Man of the Year Andrew Whitworth during the final year of his illustrious career.

In his first year with the Rams, the offensive line tied for sixth in the NFL for fewest sacks allowed (31), fifth in pressures allowed (173), and first in time to pressure allowed on offense (2.76 seconds). The Rams offensive

line did not allow a sack in two games that season and allowed just one sack on seven occasions.

Prior to joining the Rams, Jones spent the 2020 season in the NFL as an Diversity Coaching Fellow working with the offensive line for the Atlanta Falcons.

Jones spent the 2019 season as the co-special teams coordinator and tight ends coach at Colorado State University. Under his tutelage, the CSU special teams units made major improvements from the previous season, including the program's net punting which elevated from 88th nationally to sixth, and punt return coverage, which moved from 129th nationally to 33rd. He directly oversaw the punt and kickoff units when Ryan Stonehouse was named to the first-team All-Conference at punter. Additionally, Trey McBride was named first-team All-Conference after leading the league in catches by a tight end (45), yards (560) and touchdowns (four).

In 2018, he coached tight ends at The Air Force Academy and served as punt coordinator, as well as offensive tackles & tight ends coach at Coastal Carolina from 2012-18.

Jones was a four-year letterman at the University of Georgia from 2003-06. He was named second-team All-SEC at center, was elected co-captain in 2006, and earned Offensive MVP and the Coaches Leadership Award for the Bulldogs as a senior. The Bowdon, Ga. native was also the recipient of the Leon Farmer Strength and Conditioning Award and was chosen for the Academic Roundtable for excellence in the classroom and on the field.

Following his collegiate career, Jones played for the Seattle Seahawks from 2007-09 before beginning his coaching career at the University of Georgia as an offensive graduate assistant in 2010.

Jones and his wife, Katie, have one son, Deuce, and one daughter, Kennedy.



Steven King was named a special teams assistant on Feb. 2, 2024.

King originally joined the Falcons coaching staff as a diversity coaching fellow/special teams in 2022 and will return to special teams in 2024 after serving as an offensive assistant for Atlanta in 2023.

In 2023, the Falcons offense eclipsed 400 total yards of offense on six occasions, tied for the fourth-most games by a Falcons offense, behind the 2018 (nine games), 2016 (eight games) and 2014 (seven games) teams. The unit recorded eight games with more than 375 yards of total offense, sixth in the NFL.

In 2022, Atlanta was one of two teams to have special teams units score multiple touchdowns during the season – a Lorenzo Carter scoop and score off of a blocked punt in Week 2 and a Cordarrelle Patterson 103-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in Week 11. The Falcons blocked multiple punts (Troy Andersen – Week 2; Richie Grant – Week 17) for the first time in a season since at least 2000. Ade Ogundejii also recorded his second-career blocked field goal, blocking a Justin Tucker field goal in Baltimore in Week 16.

Patterson's 103-yard kickoff return for a touchdown was the ninth of his career, setting a new NFL record for the most career kickoff return touchdowns in NFL history. Patterson would be named NFC Special Teams Player of

the Week in Week 11. Additionally, second-year returner Avery Williams returned 18 punts for 292 yards and led the NFL with 16.2 yards per punt return in 2022 (min. 15 att.).

Atlanta kicker Younghoe Koo closed the 2022 season making 12-of-12 field goal attempts, including three from 50-plus, earning NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December and January.

King came to Atlanta having spent three seasons (2019-21) as a special teams quality control coach at the University of North Carolina.

Prior to his time with the Tar Heels, King spent three seasons (2016-18) at Bucknell University where he coached wide receivers and served as the special teams coordinator for his final two seasons.

In 2017, King participated in the NFL's Bill Walsh Diversity Fellowship with the Oakland Raiders, working primarily with special teams.

The Hempstead, N.Y., native has also coached at East Meadow (N.Y.) High School from 2007-10, Nassau Community College in 2011, Wagner College from 2012-13, and the University of Nevada from 2014-15.

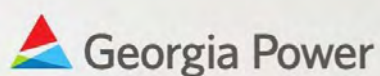
King was a four-year letterman at the University of Buffalo, where he served as a team captain and led the team in rushing touchdowns in each of his final three seasons.



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COACHES



Kevin Koger was named the Atlanta Falcons tight ends coach on Feb. 2, 2024.

Koger comes to Atlanta after spending three seasons (2021-23) as tight ends coach for the Los Angeles Chargers.

In 2023, Koger coached tight end Donald Parham Jr. to career highs in receptions (27), receiving yards (285) and receiving touchdowns (four). Gerald Everett caught 51 passes in 2023, the second-most receptions in a single season in his career. His 51 receptions were eighth among tight ends in the AFC and second on the team, behind only Keenan Allen with 108.

In his first two seasons (2021-22) with Los Angeles, Koger was part of an offense staff that produced a top-five passing offense and top-10 total offense each year. The Chargers offense ranked third in passing offense (269.6 yards per game) and ninth in total offense (359.3 yards per game) in 2022. Despite injuries, his tight ends combined for 83 receptions on the season, 10th among tight end groups in the NFL in 2022. Koger coached Everett to career bests with 58 receptions and 555 yards on the season, while tying a single-season career high with four touchdown catches.

In 2021, Koger was part of an offensive staff that coached the unit to lead in the AFC in passing offense (282.4), rank fourth in the NFL in total offense (390.2) and No. 5 in the league in scoring offense (27.9 points per game). The tight ends combined for eight of quarterback Justin Herbert's record-setting 38 passing touchdowns. Jared Cook emerged as a reliable threat for Herbert, moving the chains on 13 of his 15 receptions on third and fourth downs. The offensive unit single-season team records for first downs (401) and passing touchdowns (38) in 2021.

The Toledo, Ohio, native joined the Chargers after two seasons (2019-20) as an offensive quality control coach with the Packers, helping Green Bay secure back-to-back appearances in the NFC Championship Game. As a primary assistant to then-Packers Offensive Coordinator Nathaniel Hackett in Green Bay, Koger also contributed to the instruction of the tight ends group, helping develop Robert Tonyan to break out in 2020 with 52 catches for 586 yards and 11 receiving scores, which led all NFL tight ends in touchdown catches.

Koger was an All-Ohio selection as a senior at Toledo

Whitmer High in Toledo, Ohio. He went on to play collegiately at the University of Michigan and graduated in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in sport management. Koger was a four-year letter-winner (2008-11) and three-year starter, logging 47 games played with 30 starts at tight end. He was voted a team captain entering his senior season and ended his Wolverines career by earning honorable mention All-Big Ten recognition from the conference coaches and the media. Koger was featured on the preseason watch list for the John Mackey Award as a junior, which is annually given to the top tight end in college football.

Following his graduation from Michigan in 2012, Koger spent one season coaching the tight ends and wide receivers at Saline (Mich.) High. He then broke into the collegiate coaching ranks at his alma mater, the University of Michigan, in 2013. In two seasons in Ann Arbor, Mich., Koger's graduate assistant role featured work with the tight ends group and contributions to the special teams units. His work involved the development of 2013 All-Big Ten Freshman Team selection Jake Butt, who went on to later win the John Mackey Award.

Prior to Eastern Kentucky, Koger spent one season (2015) as an offensive quality control coach at the University of Tennessee. In his lone season in Knoxville, Tenn., primarily working with the wide receivers and offensive line, the Volunteers posted a 9-4 record, with an Outback Bowl victory.

After one year with Tennessee, Koger spent three seasons at Eastern Kentucky University (2016-18), working with the wide receivers group and adding special teams coordinator responsibilities in his final season with the Colonels. In his lone season as special teams coordinator, the kickoff return unit led the Ohio Valley Conference with a mark of 23.2 yards-per-return, while the punt return unit also blocked a pair of opponent punts. Koger's first two seasons in Richmond, Ky., centered around developing the receiving corps for eventual NFL quarterback Tim Boyle, who led the OVC in passing yards and completion percentage in 2017. That same season, Koger tutored wide receiver Ryan Markush to rank No. 2 in the conference in touchdown receptions (nine) and third in receiving yards (745), earning All-OVC recognition.

Koger and his wife, Tiffany, have three sons, Kingston, Hayes and Miles.



Patrick Kramer was named an Atlanta Falcons offensive assistant on Feb. 27, 2023, after spending two seasons (2021-22) as a football analyst on Atlanta's staff.

In 2023, the Falcons offense eclipsed 400 total yards of offense on six occasions, tied for the fourth-most games by a Falcons offense, behind the 2018 (nine games), 2016 (eight games) and 2014 (seven games) teams. The unit recorded eight games with more than 375 yards of total offense, sixth in the NFL last season. Kramer came to Atlanta after spending three seasons as a senior offensive analyst and assistant quarterbacks coach at Notre Dame (2018-20).

Kramer came to Atlanta having most recently served

as a senior offensive analyst and assistant quarterbacks coach at Notre Dame for three seasons (2018-20). In his role, Kramer was responsible for weekly opponent breakdowns and control of the defensive scout team, among others.

Prior to Notre Dame, Kramer was the offensive quality control coach and assistant quarterbacks coach at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 2017 and coached wide receivers at John Carroll University in 2016.

A native of Solon, Ohio, Kramer earned a Bachelor of Arts & Science from John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio, in 2016.



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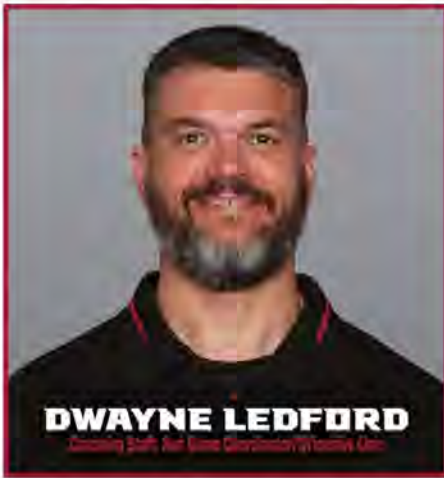
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COACHES



Ledford joined the Falcons on Jan. 22, 2021, and has spent the last three seasons as the team's offensive line coach before adding the run game coordinator title on Jan. 31, 2024.

In 2023, the Falcons boasted a top-10 rushing offense averaging 127 yards per game and eclipsing 100 yards in 11 games. Atlanta totaled 657 of its 2,159 rushing yards before contact and averaged 1.33 yards before contact per rush. Atlanta's offense totaled 400-or-more yards in six games tied for the fourth most by a Falcons offense. Running behind the Falcons offensive line, Bijan Robinson led all rookies with 976 rushing yards and broke William Andrews (1,332) franchise record for yards from scrimmage by a rookie with 1,463.

Over the last two seasons, the Falcons have run for more than 100 yards in 27 games behind their offensive line. Atlanta is the first team in NFL history to have rookies in three consecutive seasons top 1,000 scrimmage yards, with Robinson and Tyler Allgeier accomplishing the feat in 2023 and 2022 respectively. Atlanta's line also protected quarterbacks Desmond Ridder and Taylor Heinicke surrendering 40 sacks on 599 dropbacks. Ridder also ranked tied for fourth with five rushing touchdowns on the season.

Under Ledford's tutelage, Chris Lindstrom has earned second-team All Pro and Pro Bowl honors in each of the last two seasons. Ledford's unit has been anchored by established veterans in Lindstrom, Kaleb McGary and Jake Matthews, who established a new club record by starting 161 straight games dating back to his rookie season in 2014. Alongside those veterans, Ledford has overseen the development of center Drew Dalman and 2023 rookie Matthew Bergeron, a starter in all 17 games.

In 2022, Atlanta offense led the NFL in fewest penalties, finished third in the NFL in rushing yards per game and 10th in third-down conversion rate. Atlanta also had the third-highest successful play rate on rushing attempts, based on EPA, at 45.1 percent. The Falcons rushing attack averaged 74.5 more rushing yards per game in 2022 than it did in 2021, resulting in the largest one-season improvement by any team since at least 2001. With Cordarrelle Patterson (340), Tyler Allgeier (324), Marcus Mariota (280) and Caleb Huntley (265), the Falcons became the first team to have four players with at least 250 rushing yards through the first eight games of a season in NFL history. Additionally, Allgeier surpassed Williams Andrews (1,023 in 1979) for the most rushing yards by a rookie in franchise history and became the sixth rookie selected in the fifth round-or-later to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards over the past 20 seasons. Patterson also set single-season career highs for rushing

yards (695) and rushing touchdowns (eight).

Per PFF, Atlanta finished with the top run-blocking offense in the NFL in 2022 with an 83.7 rating – nearly six points higher than the next team. The Falcons limited opponents to an average of 9.7 quarterback pressures per game – an improvement of 5.3 pressures per game from 2021. Atlanta's 5.3 decrease per game is the eighth-highest one-year improvement by an offense in the past 15 seasons.

Fourth-year guard Lindstrom earned his first-career Pro Bowl honor, was named second-team AP All-Pro and graded out as Pro Football Focus' top offensive player in the NFL in 2022. Right tackle Kaleb McGary started all 17 games and graded out as PFF's fourth-best offensive tackle and eighth-best offensive lineman among all positions in 2022. McGary was given the third-best run blocking grade (91.6) in the NFL. Only Lindstrom and San Francisco's Trent Williams graded out higher in the run game in 2022.

In his first season in Atlanta, running back Cordarrelle Patterson set then single-season career highs in rushing yards and rushing touchdowns behind Atlanta's offensive line. Additionally, third-year guard Chris Lindstrom was the only guard to appear in all 17 games and not allow a single sack in the NFL in 2021, per Pro Football Focus.

Prior to joining Atlanta, Ledford spent two seasons (2019-20) at Louisville as the offensive coordinator/offensive line coach. In 2020, the Cardinals posted 2,686 passing yards and 2,200 rushing yards while averaging 29.5 points per game. In 2019, his offense was averaging 33.1 points per game and had a 1,500-yard rusher (Javian Hawkins) and 1,200-yard receiver (Tutu Atwell). The team had four offensive players named to All-ACC team; Atwell (first-team), OT Mekhi Becton (first-team), Hawkins (second-team) and AP Hassan Hall (second-team).

Ledford recently spent two years at Louisville as the offensive coordinator/offensive line coach. In 2020, the Cardinals posted 2,686 passing yards and 2,200 rushing yards while averaging 29.5 points per game. In 2019, his offense was averaging 33.1 points per game and had a 1,500-yard rusher (Javian Hawkins) and 1,200-yard receiver (Tutu Atwell). The team had four offensive players named to All-ACC team; Atwell (first-team), OT Mekhi Becton (first-team), Hawkins (second-team) and AP Hassan Hall (second-team).

Before Louisville, Ledford spent three seasons as the offensive line coach and run game coordinator at NC State, where he helped construct the Wolfpack's offensive lines into one of the best units in the ACC. Senior Garrett Bradbury was a consensus All-American earned Associated Press All-America honors and won the Rimington Trophy as the nation's top center. Bradbury and left tackle Tyler Jones both made the All-ACC team this season. It was the first time since 1974 the Pack had two from the offensive linemen on the first-team.

The Wolfpack had a 1,000-yard rusher in each season of Ledford's tenure. NC State went from 2002 to 2015 without a 1,000-yard rusher, which was the longest drought in the country. In three seasons directing the offensive line, the Wolfpack saw their sack total decrease, ranking among the top 20 in the country.

Ledford came to NC State after four seasons coaching the offensive line at Appalachian State, and three years as co-offensive coordinator for the run game. The Mountaineers set a Sun Belt single-season record with 11 wins in 2015, the team's first full year of FBS eligibility, and his offense ranked fourth in the FBS in sacks allowed in 2015 with just 0.85 per game, and paved the way for a 271.5 yard rushing average, ranking sixth nationally.

Before joining the Appalachian State staff in 2012, Ledford spent one season as the offensive line coach and

run game coordinator at Gardner-Webb and one season as the offensive line coach at Tennessee State.

Ledford's first coaching job came while he was still playing in the NFL, as he served as a strength and conditioning coach at North Carolina in 2005 and as an offensive line intern with the Frankfurt Galaxy of NFL Europe in the spring of 2006.

A seven-year NFL veteran, Ledford played for the San Francisco 49ers (1999-2000, 2003-04), Jacksonville Jaguars (2000), Carolina Panthers (2001), Cleveland Browns (2005) and New Orleans Saints (2008). He saw action in eight games, including one start, for the 49ers in 2003.

Following his playing career, he was named the Galaxy's tight ends and tackles coach in the spring of 2007 before returning to the U.S. to serve as the offensive line coach at Sanderson High in Raleigh that fall. He spent two seasons as a graduate assistant coach at his alma mater, East Carolina (2008-09), working with the offensive line and guiding the Pirates to back-to-back Conference USA titles.

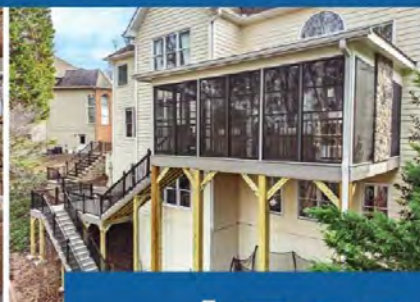
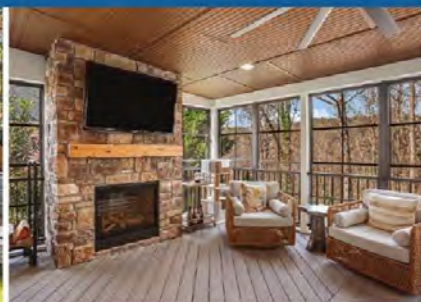
Ledford played defensive line at ECU from 1995-97, starting all 11 games as a junior and finishing with 26 career tackles. He moved to offensive line prior to his senior campaign and made nine starts at left tackle in 1998 and was named a 1998-99 National Strength and Conditioning All-American.

A native of Marion, N.C., Ledford and his wife, Meredith, have two sons, Hudson and Jordan.



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COACHES



Michael Pitre was hired as the Atlanta Falcons running backs coach on Jan. 31, 2022.

In 2023, Pitre led a running backs group that helped the Falcons finish ninth in rushing offense, with the unit averaging 127.0 yards per game. Atlanta's offense recorded 11 games with at least 100 yards on the ground, tied for eighth-most in the NFL. Pitre was instrumental in rookie running back Bijan Robinson's record-breaking start to the NFL. Robinson set the franchise record for the most yards from scrimmage by a rookie in franchise history with 1,463 yards on the season, surpassing William Andrews (1,332 in 1979). He also set the franchise record for most receptions by a rookie running back with 58. With Robinson's

1,463 yards from scrimmage, the Falcons become the first team in NFL history to have a 1,000-yard rookie in three consecutive seasons with Tyler Allgeier in 2022 and Kyle Pitts in 2021. Allgeier also set a single-season career high of four rushing touchdowns in 2023.

In his first season as the Falcons running backs coach in 2022, Atlanta offense led the NFL in fewest penalties, finished third in the NFL in rushing yards per game and 10th in third-down conversion rate. Atlanta also had the third-highest successful play rate on rushing attempts, based on EPA, at 45.1 percent. The Falcons rushing attack averaged 74.5 more rushing yards per game in 2022 than it did in 2021, resulting in the largest one-season improvement by any team since at least 2001.

With Cordarrelle Patterson (340), Tyler Allgeier (324), Marcus Mariota (280) and Caleb Huntley (265), the Falcons became the first team to have four players with at least 250 rushing yards through the first eight games of a season in NFL history. Additionally, Allgeier surpassed Williams Andrews (1,023 in 1979) for the most rushing yards by a rookie in franchise history and became the sixth rookie selected in the fifth round-or-later to eclipse 1,000 rushing yards over the past 20 seasons. Patterson also set single-season career highs for rushing yards (895) and rushing touchdowns (eight).

Pitre came to Atlanta having most recently served as the running backs coach for the Chicago Bears. In 2021, the Bears' rushing attack averaged 118.7 rushing yards per game – the 14th highest in the NFL last season. Chicago's backs tallied 54 carries of 10-plus yards and 13 carries for 20-plus yards – tied for the seventh most in the league in 2021. Bears running back David Montgomery rushed for

649 yards on 225 carries (3.8 avg.) and seven touchdowns in 13 games last season.

Prior to his time in Chicago, Pitre spent three years (2018-20) at Oregon State where he served as the running backs coach and recruiting coordinator. In three seasons under Pitre, the Beavers' rushing attack averaged 165.8 yards per game, 4.5 yards per carry and 59 rushing touchdowns.

Under Pitre, Jermar Jefferson – the Associated Press' Co-Offensive Pac-12 Player of the Year in 2020 – earned the Beavers' rushing titles in both 2018 (1,390) and 2020 (858) while also leading the entire offense in touchdowns during both seasons (2018 - 12; 2020 - 7).

Prior to his arrival Oregon State, Pitre coached running backs at Montana State from 2014-17. In his final season at MSU, the Bobcats led the Big Sky Conference and ranked seventh nationally in yards per game (249.5). Collectively, the Bobcats ranked among the Top 20 FCS rushing teams in each of Pitre's four seasons with the team, including a pair of Top 10 finishes.

Pitre received his start at the collegiate level working as a graduate assistant at the University of Colorado from 2012-13. The Buffs' rushing attack finished above 100.0 yards per game in each of Pitre's two years in Boulder. Primarily working with running backs and the offensive line, Pitre oversaw the development of NFL offensive lineman David Bakhtiari (2012) and running back Phillip Lindsay (2013).

Pitre played fullback at UCLA from 2003-07 where he was a three-year starter, appearing in 36 games and totaling 406 all-purpose yards on 58 touches (7.0 avg.) with four touchdowns. He was a team captain in 2006.



Jay Rodgers was named the Atlanta Falcons defensive line coach on Jan. 31, 2024.

Rodgers comes to Atlanta with 11 years of experience coaching defensive line in the NFL and is a former recipient of the John Teerlinck Award, an award given annually to the NFL's top defensive line coach.

Prior to Atlanta, Rodgers spent three seasons (2021-23) with the Los Angeles Chargers, serving as outside linebackers coach and defensive run game coordinator in 2021 before serving as defensive line coach and defensive run game coordinator from 2022-23.

The Chargers defense finished with 48 sacks in 2023,

tied for the seventh most in the NFL, and limited opponents to a 62.5 goal-to-go percentage, fourth best in the NFL. In 2022, Los Angeles defensive line was led by Morgan Fox who recorded 6.5 sacks and Sebastian Joseph-Day who tied for second among AFC interior defensive linemen with nine tackles for loss and was just the third interior defensive lineman to record 50 tackles, eight tackles for loss and an interception in a single season. In 2021, Rodgers oversaw an outside linebackers room that recorded 19.5 of the team's 35 sacks, including 10.5 from Joey Bosa, who was named to his fourth-career Pro Bowl.

Prior to Los Angeles, Rodgers spent six seasons (2015-20) as defensive line coach for the Chicago Bears where he directed a defensive front that routinely was part of a top-ranked defensive unit. In 2018, Chicago boasted the NFL's top run defense (80 ypg), while holding opponents to a league-low 17.7 points per game. The unit was led by defensive lineman Akiem Hicks, who earned second-team All-Pro honors and was named to his first-career Pro in 2018. From 2016-20, Hicks recorded the seventh-most sacks by an interior defensive lineman (27.5), despite missing most of the 2019 season.

Rodgers joined the Bears after a six-year tenure (2009-14) with the Denver Broncos. He was part of a staff that saw the team make four consecutive postseason appearances from 2011-14, including an appearance in Super Bowl XLVIII following the 2013 season. Over his three years (2012-14) as the defensive line coach, Rodgers' unit helped the Broncos defense lead the NFL in rushing yards allowed per game (90.8). In 2012, defensive end Elvis Dumervil was named to his third-career Pro Bowl as the defensive front helped the defense record a league-leading 52 sacks.

Rodgers began his NFL coaching career as a coaching assistant for Denver in 2009 and was a defensive quality control coach from 2010-11.

A native of Austin, Texas, Rodgers is an alumnus of Westlake High School. As a college player, he started 15 games at quarterback at Indiana University from 1996-98, before transferring to Missouri State for the 1999 season. Rodgers was named team captain and the team's most valuable player in his one season at Missouri State where he set a number of the program's single-season passing records. Rodgers earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana before working as a recruiting assistant at Ohio State University in 2000.

Rodgers entered the coaching ranks as a graduate assistant at LSU from 2001-02. He spent his first season working with the offensive staff, as the 2001 Tigers won the Southeastern Conference and defeated Illinois in the Sugar Bowl. Rodgers then assisted the defensive staff for the 2002 season before moving to Dodge City (Kan.) Community College in 2003 as passing game coordinator, quarterbacks coach and wide receivers coach. Following one season at Dodge City, Rodgers returned to Missouri State, spending the 2004 season as quarterbacks coach. He then coached the position for two seasons (2005-06) as Stephen F. Austin and, in his final stop before the NFL, coached wide receivers from 2007-08 at Iowa State.

Rodgers and his wife, Melissa, have three children. Rodgers' brother, Jeff, is the assistant head coach/special teams coordinator for the Arizona Cardinals. The two coached together for four seasons (2011-14) with the Denver Broncos and three seasons (2015-17) with the Chicago Bears.

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COACHES



Barrett Ruud was named Atlanta Falcons inside linebackers coach on Feb. 2, 2024.

Ruud comes to Atlanta with eight years of collegiate coaching experience, having most recently served as inside linebackers coach at his alma mater, the University of Nebraska, from 2018-22.

In 2022, Ruud led a linebacker group that helped the Nebraska defense limit its opponents to average only 313.3 yards per game, register 39 sacks, and record the third-best third-down percentage (37.9 percent) in the Big Ten West. Under Ruud's guidance, linebacker Luke Reimer led Nebraska in tackles with 86 on the season, despite missing a pair of games due to injury, en route to being named an All-Big Ten honorable mention for his second consecutive season.

Linebackers Reimer and Luke Henrich flourished under Ruud's coaching in 2021, helping Nebraska allow just 22.7 points per game, the best by a Husker defense in 11 seasons. Nebraska's 368.0 yards per game allowed also marked its best total in five years. Reimer led Nebraska with 109 tackles, including five double-figure tackle games with 16 tackles against Buffalo and 19 against Purdue. Reimer also recorded six tackles for loss, broke up six passes and forced three fumbles and was an honorable-mention All-Big Ten selection. Henrich nearly joined Reimer in reaching 100 tackles, registering 98 tackles in his first full season as a starter. Henrich had three games with double-figure tackles, including a career-high 15 stops against Michigan.

Ruud adeptly rotated inside linebackers in 2020 as the Huskers battled injuries. Linebacker Will Honas led the group with 57 tackles, 6.5 tackles for loss and three sacks on his way to all-conference honors. Collin Miller recorded 27 tackles in four games before a neck injury ended his playing career. Reimer made 40 tackles and five tackles for loss, while redshirt freshman Henrich moved inside late in the season and finished the year with 27 tackles. Ruud's linebacker group was instrumental in helping Nebraska rank sixth in the Big Ten in total defense.

In Ruud's second season with the Huskers in 2019, Nebraska's top three tacklers were inside linebackers. Mohamed Barry led the team in tackles for the second

straight season with 89 stops, while Honas was second with 73 tackles, and Miller finished third on the team with 67 tackles. Barry earned All-Big Ten honors for the second straight season.

In his first season as inside linebackers coach in 2018, Ruud's inside linebackers helped Nebraska improve by 27 spots in the national scoring defense rankings from the 2017 season and by 81 spots in pass efficiency defense. Both of Ruud's starting inside linebackers put together impressive seasons in 2018, with Barry leading the team with 112 tackles, the best by a Husker linebacker since All-American Lavonte David had 133 tackles in 2011. Barry ranked second in the Big Ten in tackles per game and earned all-conference accolades. Dedrick Young II also had a career high in tackles in his lone season with Ruud as his position coach. Young totaled a career-high 83 tackles in 2018 to end his career with 284 tackles, the fifth-highest total in Nebraska history. In addition to his career high in tackles, Young also broke up a career-high five passes and intercepted the first pass of his career.

Prior to Nebraska, Ruud spent two seasons (2016-17) as a quality control administrator at the University of Central Florida after beginning his coaching career as a defensive intern at Nebraska in 2014. Ruud helped the Knights to a 13-0 record in 2017 when Central Florida was the nation's only unbeaten team and won the American Athletic Conference title and the Peach Bowl. The Knights were also among the top teams in the nation in takeaways, with their 58 takeaways in 2016 and 2017 ranking third among FBS schools in that span.

As a player, Ruud was selected by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the second round (36th overall) of the 2005 NFL Draft. In his eight-year NFL career, he recorded 658 tackles, seven interceptions, six sacks and six forced fumbles in 113 games for the Buccaneers, Tennessee Titans and Houston Texans. At Nebraska, Ruud finished with a program-record 432 tackles. He earned freshman All-America honors in 2001, third-team All-America honors in 2004 and was a three-time All-Big 12 selection.

A Lincoln, Neb., native, Ruud and his wife, Jenna, have two sons, Brooks and Hudson, and one daughter, Jaimes.



Lance Schulters was named Atlanta Falcons defensive assistant on Feb. 3, 2024.

Schulters returns to Atlanta after spending two seasons (2021-22) with the Los Angeles Rams where he served as a coaching fellow in 2021 and a defensive assistant in 2022.

This marks Schulters' third stint with Atlanta's coaching staff, having previously served as a special teams intern from 2015-16 and a defensive assistant in 2020.

Schulters began his coaching career in 2011 when he

served as defensive backs coach at Bryant University.

As a player, Schulters was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the fourth round of the 1998 NFL Draft. Over his 10-year career, he spent time with the Tennessee Titans, Miami Dolphins, Atlanta Falcons and New Orleans Saints, and was named to the Pro Bowl in 1999. Additionally, the Hofstra University alum was named to the school's Hall of Fame in 2013.



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COACHES



Jacques Smith was named outside linebackers coach on Feb. 22, 2024.

Smith joins the Falcons as an outside linebackers coach after spending the 2023 season as an assistant edge coach at Texas.

In 2023, Smith helped coach the Longhorns defense to rank second in the Big 12 in sacks (32) and tackles for loss (85). Prior to joining the staff at Texas, Smith specialized in pre-draft training for draft-eligible players.

Smith played five seasons (2014-18) in the NFL, appearing in 37 games (18 starts) for the Buccaneers, Lions and Raiders. Over his career, Smith recorded 43 tackles (30

solo), 26 quarterback hits, 13.5 sacks, 10 tackles for loss, four forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries, three passes defended and one defensive touchdown.

As a defensive end at Missouri, Smith played four seasons (2008-11) for the Tigers, recording 142 tackles (77 solo), 21 tackles for loss, 9.5 sacks, nine passes defended, five forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and two defensive touchdowns (one interception and one fumble recovery). In 2010, Smith earned second team All-Big 12 honors after registering 35 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks.



John Timu was named Atlanta Falcons defensive assistant on Feb. 3, 2024.

Timu comes to Atlanta after spending three seasons (2021-23) with the Los Angeles Chargers where he served in a variety of roles, including assistant defensive line coach (2023), defensive assistant (2022) and as the Alex G. Spanos Coaching Fellow in 2021.

In 2023, Timu helped coach a defensive unit that finished the season with 48 sacks, tied for seventh in the NFL. Since 2000, the Chargers' 48 sacks are the second-most sacks in a single season in franchise history (61 in 2006). Timu helped coach star edge rusher Khalil Mack who finished fourth in the NFL with 17 sacks, setting a single-season career high and matching the Chargers single-season franchise sack record. Mack also earned Pro Bowl honors for the second consecutive season, the eighth of his career. Timu also helped in the development of rookie edge rusher, Tuli Tuipulotu as he finished the season with 53 tackles (37 solo), 12 quarterback hits (tied for fourth among rookies), eight tackles for loss (tied for fourth among rookies), 4.5 sacks (tied for sixth among rookies), two forced fumbles (tied for first among rookies), one fumble recovery and one pass defense.

Timu continued to assist the defensive line in his second season with the Bolts in 2022, helping Run Game Coordinator/Defensive Line Coach Jay Rodgers tutor a line that recorded 11.5 of the team's 40 sacks, led by defensive linemen Morgan Fox (6.5) and Sebastian Joseph-Day (two). Joseph-Day ranked tied for second in the AFC with nine tackles for loss and was just the third interior defensive lineman in the last 15 years to post 50 tackles, eight tackles for loss and an interception in a single season. The group was part of a defensive unit that had the best third-and-short defense in the NFL, allowing conversions on a

league-low 48.8 percent of the time on third-and-one or third-and-two situations.

In his first year with the Bolts in 2021, Timu aided the coaching staff in the defense's transition to a 3-4 base front scheme, primarily contributing to the organization and day-to-day operation of the defensive coaching staff, specifically the defensive line and linebackers. As a unit, the Chargers' defense ranked third in the NFL with a conference-best 19 forced fumbles.

Timu joined the Chargers after spending two seasons (2019-20) as a graduate assistant at his alma mater, the University of Washington. In a condensed 2020 season, Washington finished the season as Pacific-12 Conference North Division Champions. In his first season returning to the Pacific Northwest, Washington finished with an 8-5 record, capping the campaign by beating Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Before joining the coaching ranks, Timu played three NFL seasons (2015-17) for the Chicago Bears, appearing in 29 career games (nine starts) at linebacker. In a 2015 win at Tampa Bay, he had six tackles and recovered two fumbles, becoming the first Bears defender to record multiple fumble recoveries in a single game since 2012. After being waived during final roster cuts prior to the 2018 season, Timu signed with the Salt Lake Stallions of the Alliance of American Football in early 2019.

Timu was a three-year starting linebacker at Washington, earning honorable mention All-Pac-12 recognition following his senior season in 2014. That year, he led the Huskies with 108 total tackles, while adding 10 passes defended and two interceptions, including one he returned 63 yards for a touchdown.

The Long Beach, Calif., native and his wife, Amanda, have three sons — Asaiah, Jireh and Jaxxon.

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COACHES



Chandler Whitmer was named the Atlanta Falcons pass game specialist on Feb. 2, 2024.

Whitmer spent the past three seasons (2021-23) as an offensive quality control coach for the Los Angeles Chargers where he primarily assisted the quarterbacks in addition to weekly preparation and day-to-day operations for the offensive coaching staff.

In 2023, Whitmer helped quarterback Justin Herbert to complete 297-of-456 pass attempts (65.1 percent) for 3,134 yards and 20 touchdowns to seven interceptions, registering a 93.2 passer rating. He also rushed for three touchdowns prior to being placed on Reserve/Injured following Week 14. Through the first three weeks of the season, Herbert owned the second-highest passer rating in the NFL with a mark of 112.9. Since entering the league in 2020, Herbert has completed 1,613 passes, the most by a player in his first four seasons in NFL history, despite missing the final four games of the season.

In his first two seasons with Los Angeles, Whitmer helped coach the offense to rank third in passing offense (276.0 net passing yards per game) and fifth in total offense (374.8 total net yards per game) in the NFL from 2021-22. Whitmer was part of a staff that coached the offense to rank third in passing offense (269.6) and No. 9 in total offense (359.3) in the NFL in 2022. He helped Herbert continue to set records, as no player has more completions (1,316), passing yards (14,089) or total touchdowns (102) over the first three seasons of a career. Herbert is also the only quarterback in NFL history to begin a career with three consecutive seasons of 4,000-plus passing yards and the second player ever to throw 25 touchdowns in each of their first three years, joining Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning.

Whitmer's contributions helped Herbert earn his first career Pro Bowl nod after setting the single-season franchise records in passing yards (5,014), passing touchdowns (38) and completions (443) in 2021. The Chargers ranked first in the AFC in passing offense (282.4) in 2021, placing fourth in the NFL in total offense (390.2). The offensive unit's efficiency late in games was prominent, as the Bolts posted the second-most fourth-quarter points scored by any team in a single season in NFL history (181). The offensive unit single-season team records for first downs

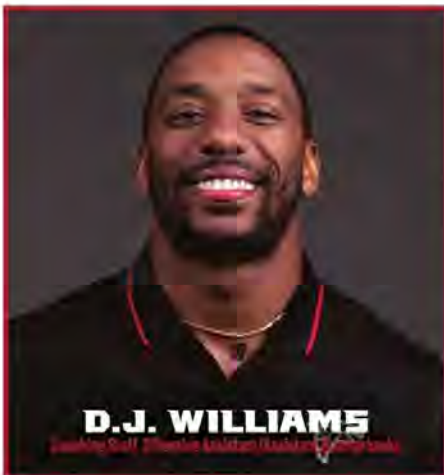
(401) and passing touchdowns (38) in 2021.

Herbert became the third-youngest player in NFL history to eclipse 5,000 passing yards in a single season, adding an additional 302 rushing yards — the most by any 5,000-yard passer in league annals. Herbert's 38 passing scores took his career total to 69, setting the record for most by a QB through their first two pro seasons. Along with eight scores on the ground, Herbert's 77 combined career rushing and passing touchdowns are the most total touchdowns by any player in NFL history through their first two seasons.

Prior to joining the Chargers, Whitmer served as an offensive graduate assistant at Clemson, aiding the offensive coaching staff and working with the quarterback and wide receiver groups. He worked closely with Trevor Lawrence, the runner-up for the 2020 Heisman Trophy, as Clemson defeated No. 2 Notre Dame in the ACC Championship and appeared in the College Football Playoff for the sixth-straight season.

Whitmer contributed to offensive coaching staff at Ohio State University one season earlier in a graduate assistant role. In his lone season with the Buckeyes (2019), first-year signal-caller Justin Fields led the Buckeyes to a 12-0 regular record, defeating eighth-ranked Wisconsin in the Big Ten Championship Game. The Buckeyes' berth in the College Football Playoff was the program's first appearance in the CFP since the 2016 season. The Atlanta, Ga., native aided Ohio State's offensive coaching staff after serving one season as an offensive quality control coach at Yale University.

As a player, Whitmer logged 24 starts under center for the University of Connecticut from 2012-14, later earning a rookie minicamp invite from the Philadelphia Eagles. He culminated his Huskies career ranked fourth in program history in career completions (403) and passing yards (5,082), while ranking sixth all-time in UConn annals with 25 passing scores. Whitmer started his collegiate career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010, before transferring and playing the 2011 season at Butler (Kan.) Community College. In his lone season at Butler, Whitmer was named NJCAA All-America honorable mention after leading Butler to a top-five national ranking.



D.J. Williams was named offensive assistant/assistant quarterbacks coach on Feb. 22, 2024.

Williams joins the Falcons after spending the last five seasons (2019-23) as an offensive assistant with the New Orleans Saints. Prior to joining the Saints staff, Williams assisted New Orleans during training camp in 2017. He also worked with the club's coaches and football operations department in 2018.

In 2023, Williams helped Saints quarterback Derek Carr complete 375-of-548 attempts (68.4 percent) for 3,878 yards, 25 touchdowns and eight interceptions with a 97.7 passer rating in his first season in New Orleans. Carr finished the season top 10 among quarterbacks in comple-

tions, passing touchdowns and passer rating.

Williams graduated from Grambling State in 2015, where he played quarterback for the Tigers from 2011-14, starting contests in all four seasons and earning tryouts with several NFL teams following the conclusion of his collegiate career. Williams is the son of Washington Commanders executive Doug Williams, who won Super Bowl XXII, making him the first black quarterback in NFL history to both start and win a Super Bowl.

From 2019-21 and in 2023, Williams participated in the NFL/Black College Football Hall of Fame Quarterback Coaching Summit. He served as the National Team quarterbacks coach at the 2023 Senior Bowl.

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T.J. Yates joined the Falcons on Jan. 30, 2021, and has spent the last three seasons as a passing game specialist (2021) and wide receivers coach (2022-23) before transitioning to quarterbacks coach on Jan. 31, 2024.

Under Yates guidance, second year wide out Drake London broke Julio Jones' (133) club record for receptions through a player's first two seasons with 141 catches. London's 1,771 receiving yards over his first two years rank second to Jones (2,157) and the USC product led the Falcons in yards and receptions in each of the last two seasons.

In 2023, London caught 69 passes for a career-high 906 yards with two touchdowns. He generated 2.0 yards per route run, 8.2 yards per target and a 12.2-yard average depth of target. London was Atlanta's most productive receiver and was targeted on nearly a quarter of the Falcons pass plays.

In Yates' first season as wide receivers coach, London finished his rookie season with 72 receptions for 866 yards and four touchdowns, surpassing Kyle Pitts (68 in 2021) for the most receptions by a rookie in franchise history.

Yates joined the Falcons coaching staff after spending two seasons (2019-20) working with the Houston Texans. In 2020, he served as the assistant quarterbacks coach helping Deshaun Watson earn his third Pro Bowl nod. With Yates' assistance, Watson led the NFL with 4,823 passing yards while throwing 33 touchdowns against seven interceptions and completing 70.2 percent of his passes. Yates spent the 2019 season as an offensive assistant

helping the Texans capture an AFC South title after a 10-6 regular season. Houston defeated the Buffalo Bills in the Wild Card Round and advanced to the Divisional Round for the fourth time in team history.

Yates spent seven seasons in the NFL as a quarterback playing for the Texans (2011-13, 2015, 2017), Falcons (2014), Dolphins (2016), and Buffalo Bills (2017). He was originally selected by the Texans in the fifth round (152nd overall) of the 2011 NFL Draft and went on to start five regular-season games and both postseason games that season. He completed 11-of-20 passes for 159 yards and one touchdown in the Wild Card Playoff Round vs. Cincinnati in the franchise's first postseason game and postseason victory.

Yates appeared in 13 games with five starts over three seasons with the Texans before being traded to the Falcons where he spent one season backing up Matt Ryan. Yates returned to Houston in 2015 and appeared in four games with two starts. After spending time with the Dolphins and Bills, he returned for a third stint with the Texans in 2017 threw a career-high four touchdowns in four games played.

Prior to his NFL career, Yates was a four-year starter at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C. He set records for most completions and passing yards in a single game, single season, and career. He also became the first quarterback in school history to record more than 3,000 passing yards in a single season and was named Honorable-Mention All-ACC as a senior in 2010.

A Marietta, Ga. native, Yates and his wife, Amy, have two sons, Carter and Teddy.



Ken Zampese was named Atlanta Falcons senior offensive assistant on Feb. 3, 2024.

Zampese joins the Falcons from the Washington Commanders where he spent the last four seasons. In 2023, Zampese worked as senior offensive assistant/game management after spending the previous three seasons as the Commanders quarterbacks' coach. He brings a wealth of experience to Atlanta, serving in a variety of coaching roles with several NFL teams including Washington, Cleveland (2018), Cincinnati (2003-17), St. Louis (2000-02), Green Bay (1999), and Philadelphia (1998).

In 2021, he worked with Taylor Heinicke helping the quarterback pass for 3,419 yards with 20 touchdowns in 16 games. Under Zampese's guidance, Heinicke had seven games with a passer rating of 90-or-better and five games with two-or-more touchdown passes. In 2020, Zampese worked with Alex Smith who posted a 5-1 record as a starter and was named the AP Comeback Player of the year.

Prior to his time in Washington, Zampese split time in 2019 with Atlanta Legends and the University of Florida after spending the 2018 season with the Browns. In Cleveland, guided first overall pick Baker Mayfield to an impressive rookie season, setting an NFL rookie record with 27 touchdown passes in just 13 games. Mayfield led all rookies in passing yards (3,725), passing touchdowns (27), completion percentage (63.79) and passer rating (93.7) that season.

Zampese was the offensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bengals for the 2016 season where the team fielded a top-13 unit averaging 358.9 yards per game. Prior to

being named the offensive coordinator, Zampese spent the previous 13 seasons as the Bengals quarterbacks coach working with Jon Kitna, Carson Palmer, and Andy Dalton. Under Zampese's tutelage, Kitna was named AP Comeback Player of the Year and PFWA Most Improved Player in 2003, Palmer earned back-to-back Pro Bowl selections in 2005 and 2006, while Dalton was named to Pro Bowls in 2011, 2014, and 2016.

Zampese joined the Bengals after three seasons in St. Louis. In 2001, he was the club's wide receivers coach as the Rams led the NFL in passing yards. The next season, he added passing game coordinator to his responsibilities with the Rams finishing second in the league in passing.

Zampese spent time as an offensive assistant with the Rams (2000) and Green Bay Packers (1999) after getting his NFL start as an offensive assistant with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1998. Prior to working in the NFL, he spent nine years as a college coach, including two seasons as quarterbacks coach and passing game coordinator at Miami (Ohio) and four seasons at Northern Arizona where he was offensive coordinator (1995) and wide receivers coach (1992-94). Zampese began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at USC (1990-91).

Zampese played wide receiver and kick returner at the University of San Diego from 1985-88. He was the team's Special Teams Player of the Year as a senior. He earned an undergraduate degree in business from San Diego, and later received a master's degree in adult education from Southern California.



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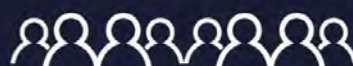
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20 DEE ALFORD



DEE ALFORD

Position **CB**

Experience **3**

Age **26**

HT/WT **5-11/177**

College **Tusculum
College**





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44

TROY
ANDERSEN



**TROY
ANDERSEN**

Position **ILB**

Experience **3**

Age **25**

HT/WT **6-4/239**

College **Montana
State**

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3

JESSIE
BATES III



**JESSIE
BATES III**

Position **S**

Experience **7**

Age **27**

HT/WT **6-1/200**

College **Wake
Forest**

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65

MATTHEW BERGERON



**MATTHEW
BERGERON**

Position **OL**

Experience **2**

Age **24**

HT/WT **6-5/323**

College **Syracuse**

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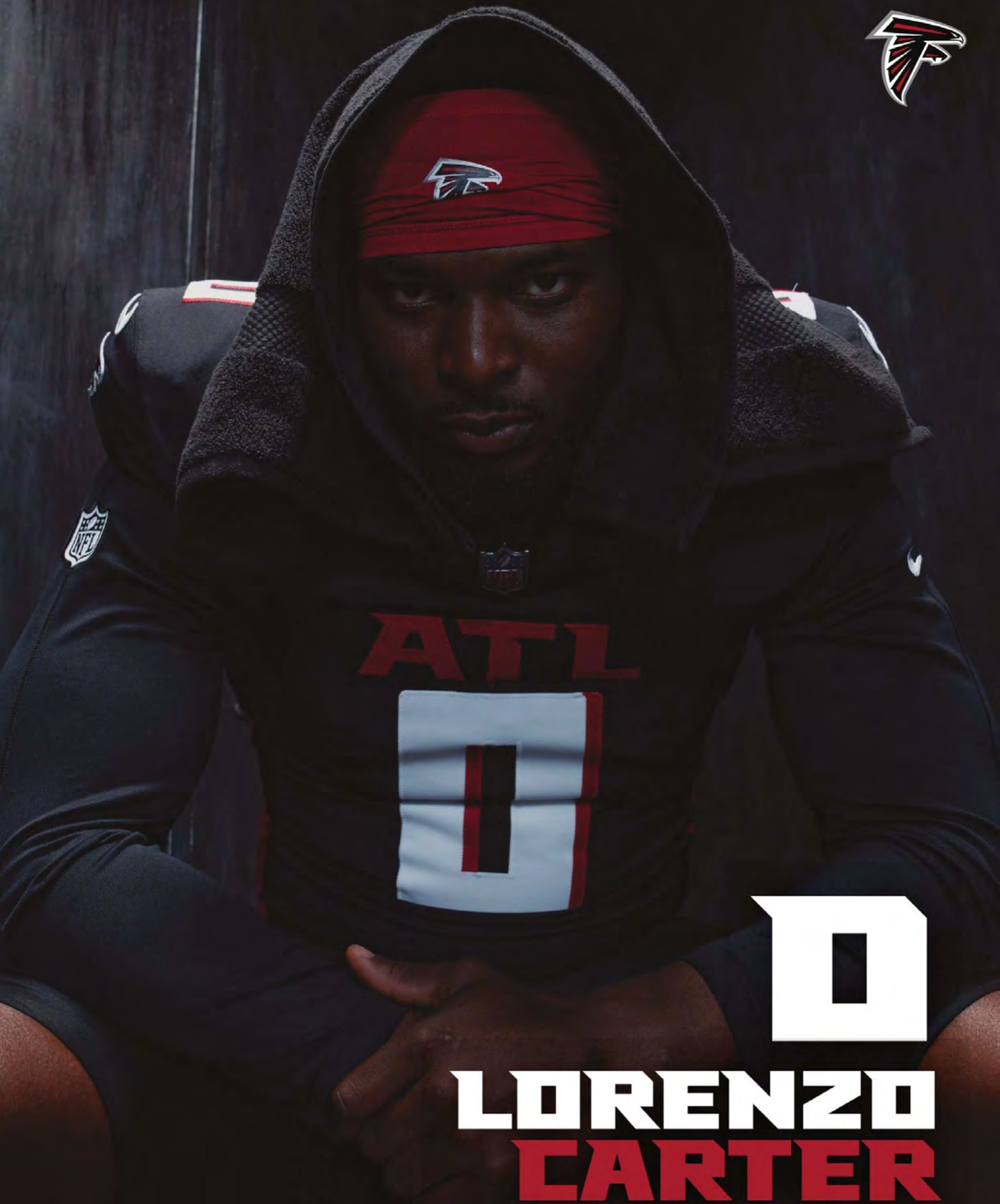
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0
LORENZO
CARTER



**LORENZO
CARTER**

Position **OLB**

Experience **7**

Age **28**

HT/WT **6-5/264**

College **Georgia**



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11

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18

KIRK

COUSINS



KIRK **COUSINS**

Position **QB**

Experience **13**

Age **35**

HT/WT **6-3/205**

College **Michigan
State**

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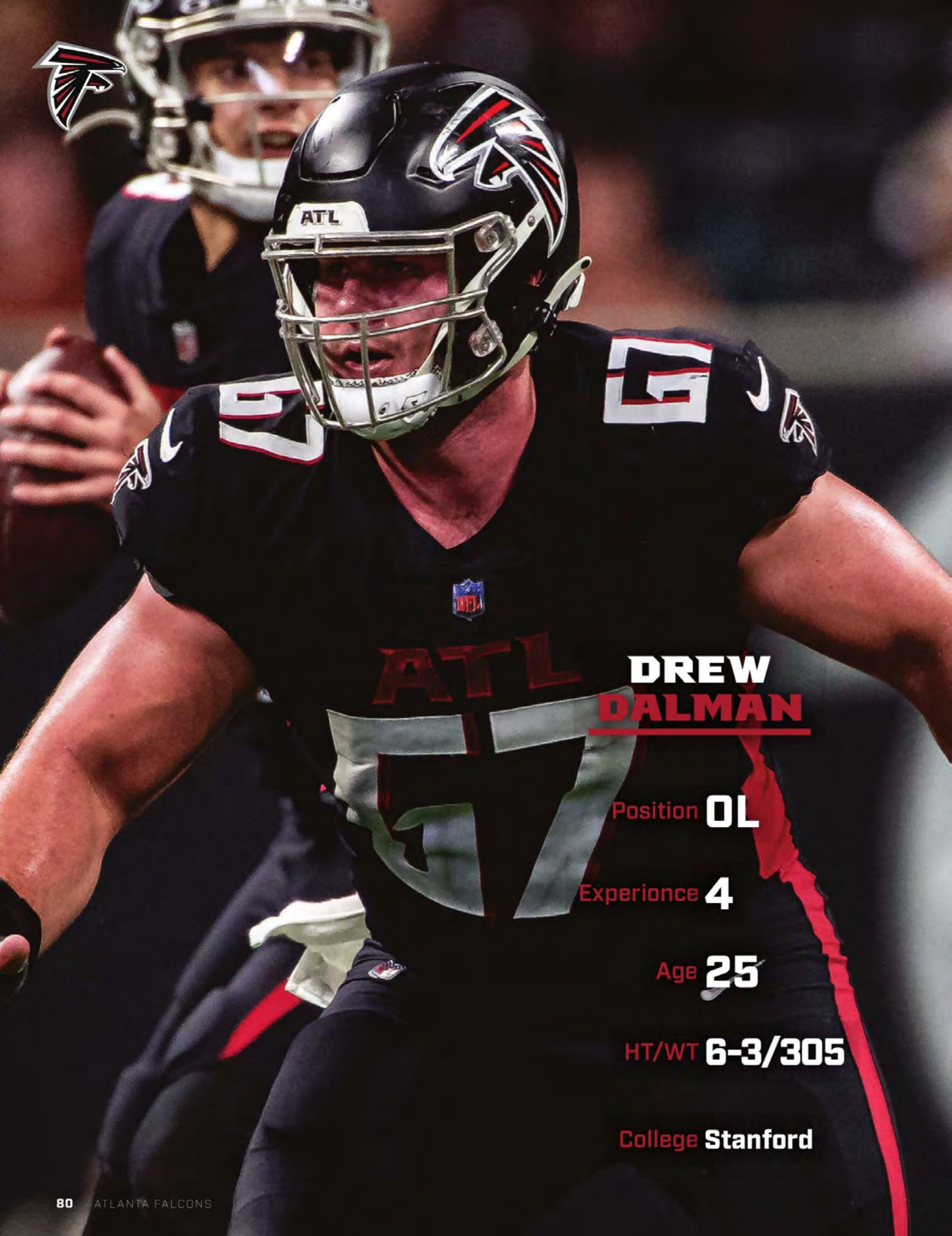
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67

DREW
DALMAN



**DREW
DALMAN**

Position **OL**

Experience **4**

Age **25**

HT/WT **6-3/305**

College **Stanford**

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17
ARNOLD
EBIKETIE



EBIKETIE
17

ARNOLD
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Position **OLB**

Experience **3**

Age **25**

HT/WT **6-2/250**

College **Penn State**



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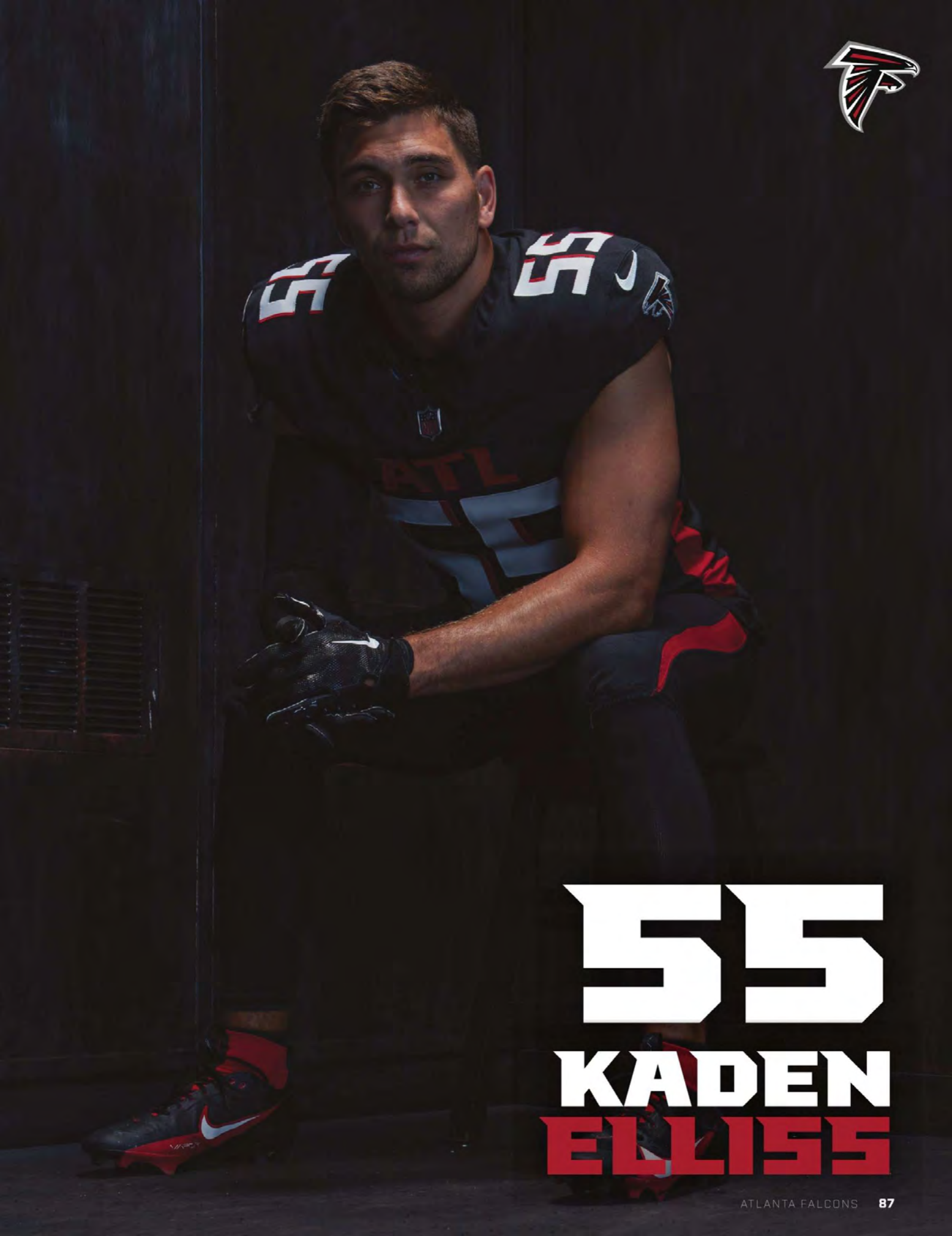


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KADEN
ELLIS



**KADEN
ELLISS**

Position **ILB**

Experience **6**

Age **29**

HT/WT **6-2/238**

College **Idaho**

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27
RICHIE
GRANT



**RICHIE
GRANT**

Position **S**

Experience **4**

Age **26**

HT/WT **6-1/204**

College **UCF**



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96
ZACH
HARRISON



**ZACH
HARRISON**

Position **DL**

Experience **2**

Age **22**

HT/WT **6-5/274**

College **Ohio State**

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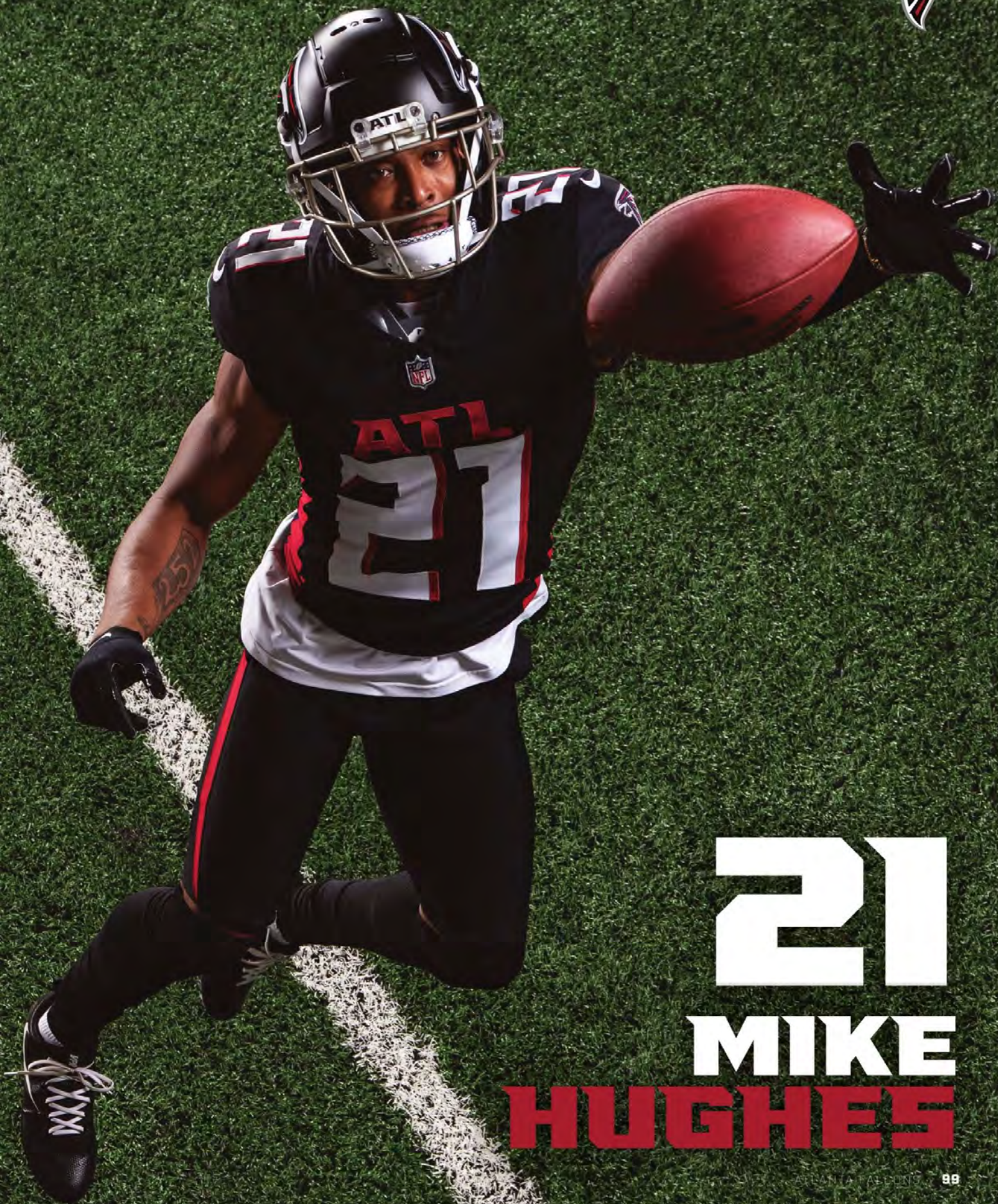
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21

MIKE
HUGHES



**MIKE
HUGHES**

Position **CB**

Experience **7**

Age **27**

HT/WT **5-10/191**

College **UCF**

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97

GRADY
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**GRADY
JARRETT**

Position **DL**

Experience **10**

Age **31**

HT/WT **6-1/288**

College **Clemson**

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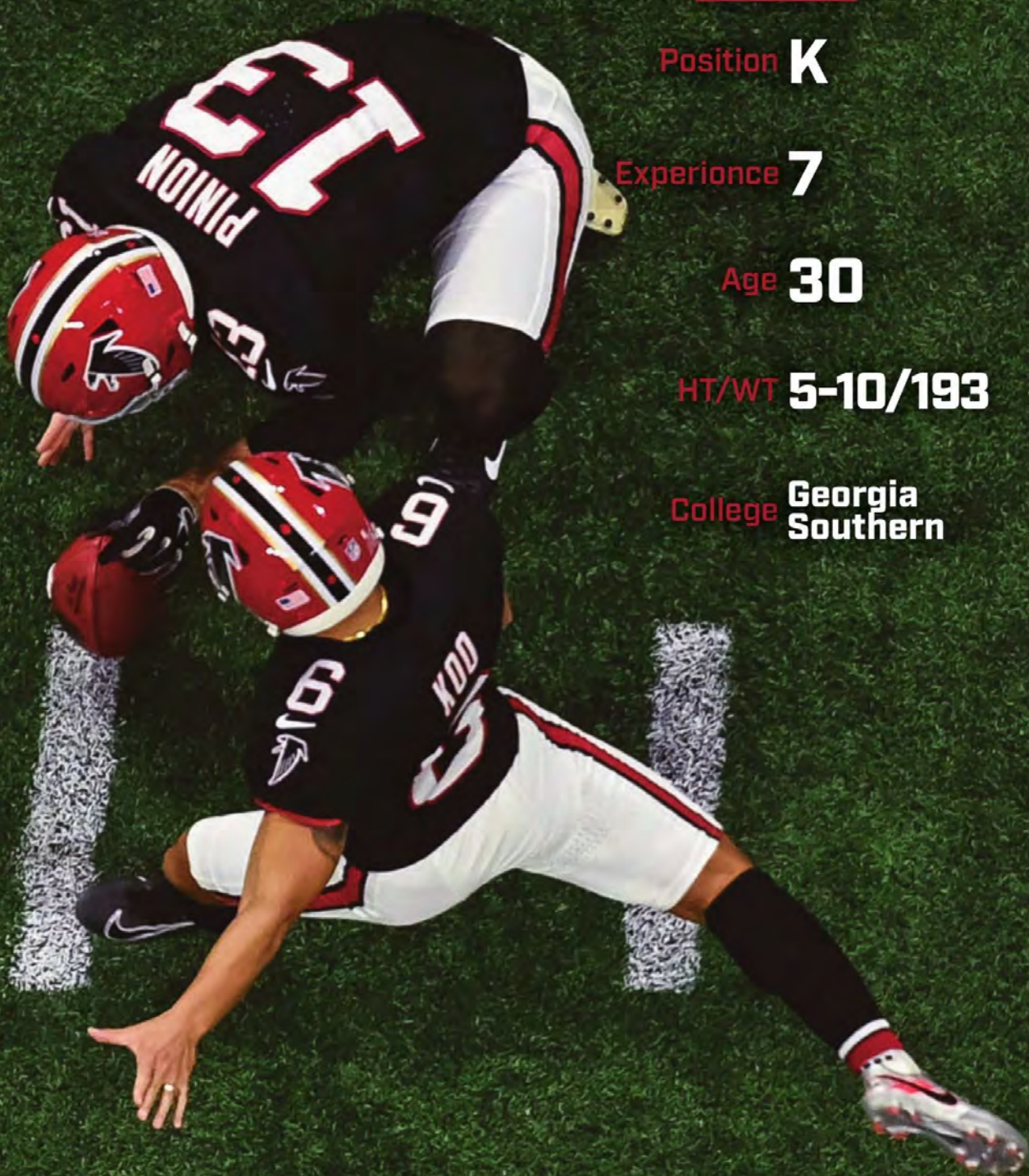
Position **K**

Experience **7**

Age **30**

HT/WT **5-10/193**

College **Georgia
Southern**





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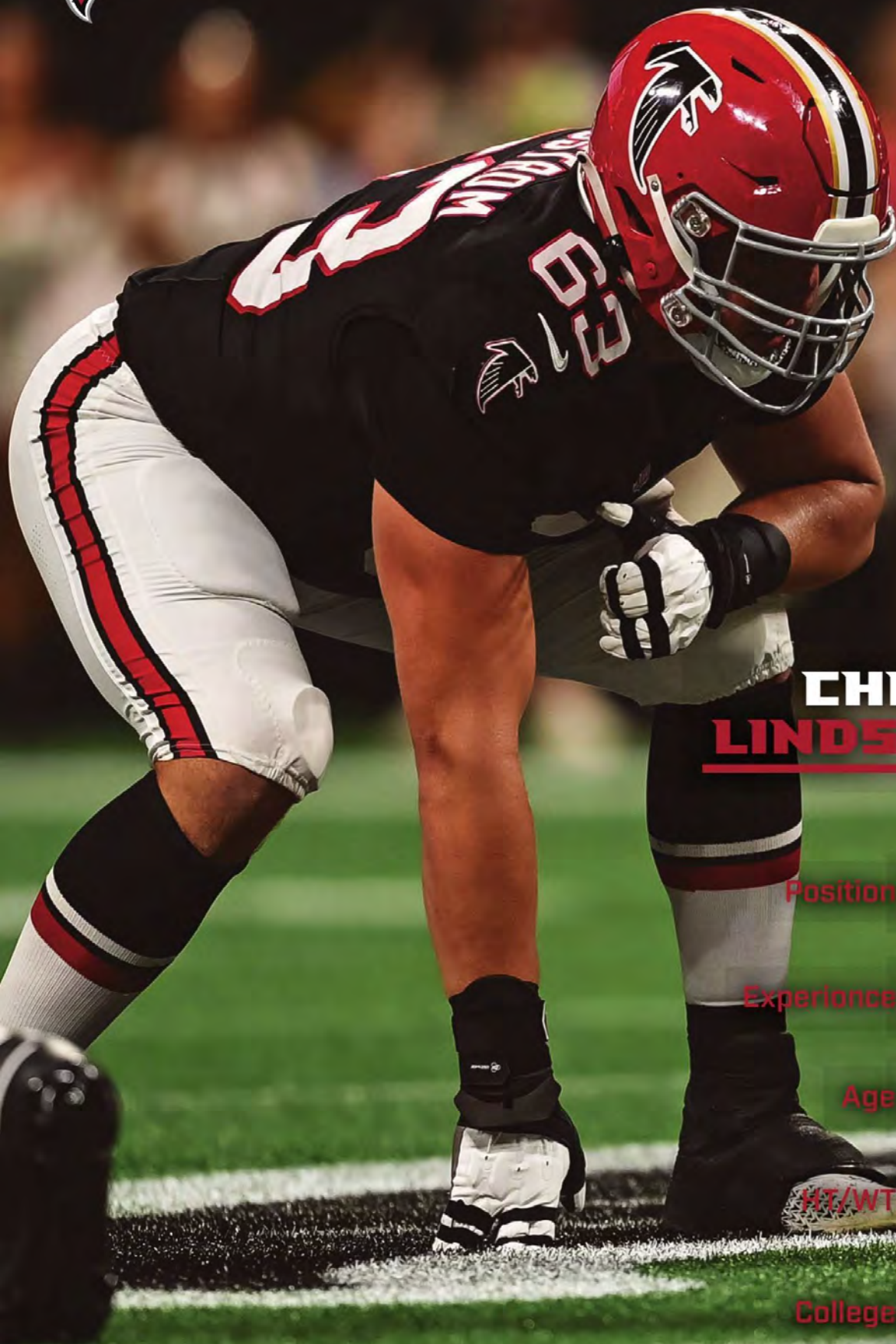


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63

CHRIS
LINDSTROM



**CHRIS
LINDSTROM**

Position **G**

Experience **6**

Age **27**

HT/WT **6-3/307**

College **Boston
College**



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Hoffer also is passionate about working with young athletes. As the mother of two sons who are Division 1 college football players, Hoffer applies her personal perspective in helping athletes navigate NIL matters. She is dedicated to protecting athletes' interests just as much as she is to safeguarding her sons' rights.

These experiences prompted Hoffer to develop a thriving national practice with five powerhouse lawyers to counsel athletes during NIL negotiations. Hoffer's trial lawyer instincts, experience at the negotiating table and proven record in the courtroom help her clients win on and off the field.



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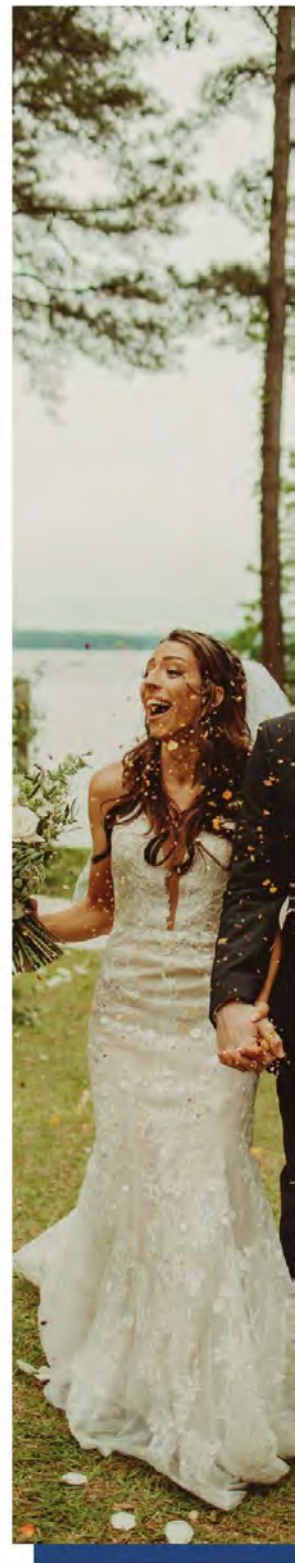
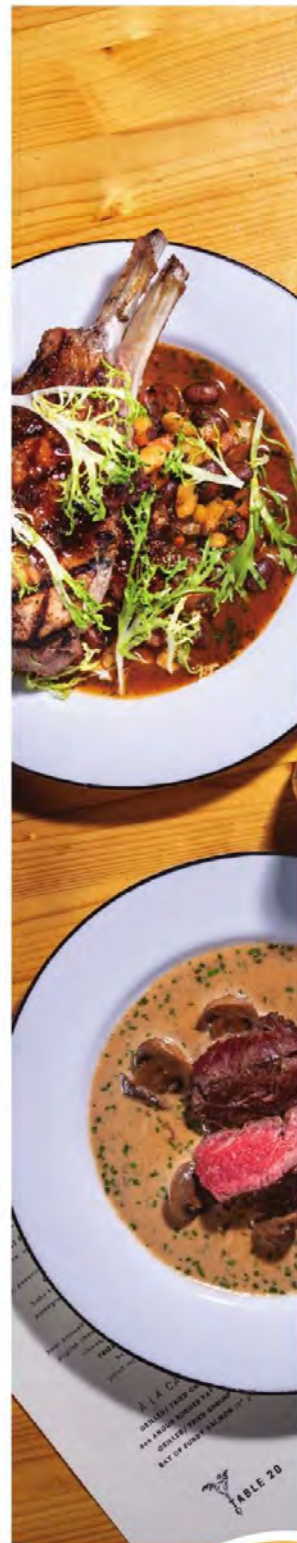
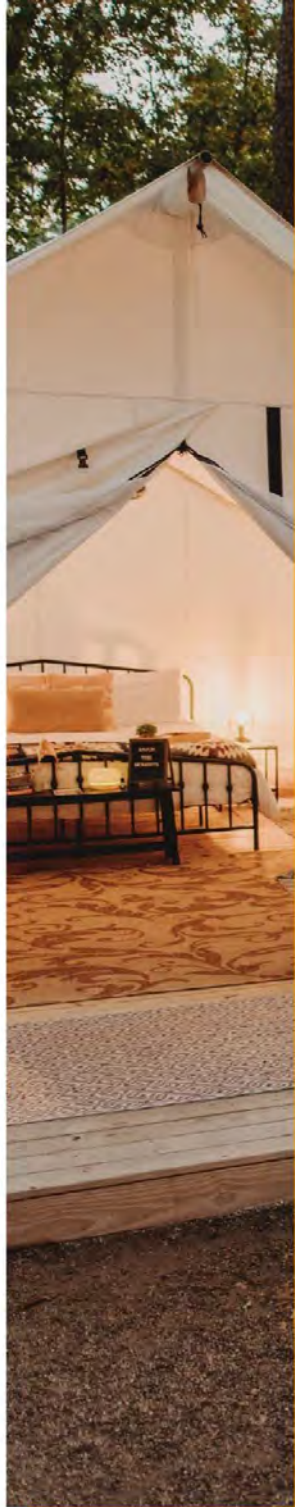
Position **WR**

Experience **3**

Age **23**

HT/WT **6-4/213**

College **USC**



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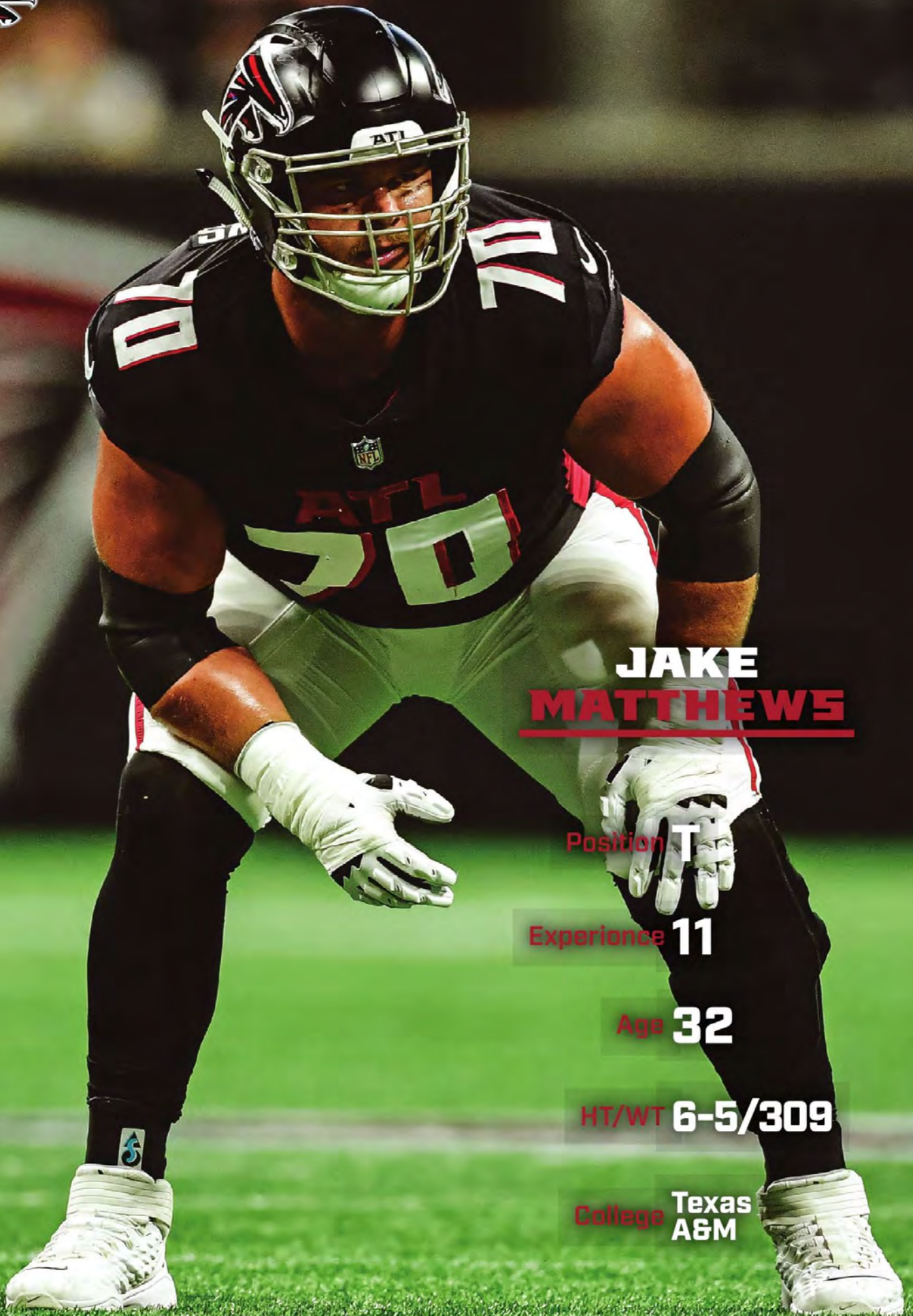
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70
JAKE
MATTHEWS



**JAKE
MATTHEWS**

Position **T**

Experience **11**

Age **32**

HT/WT **6-5/309**

College **Texas
A&M**

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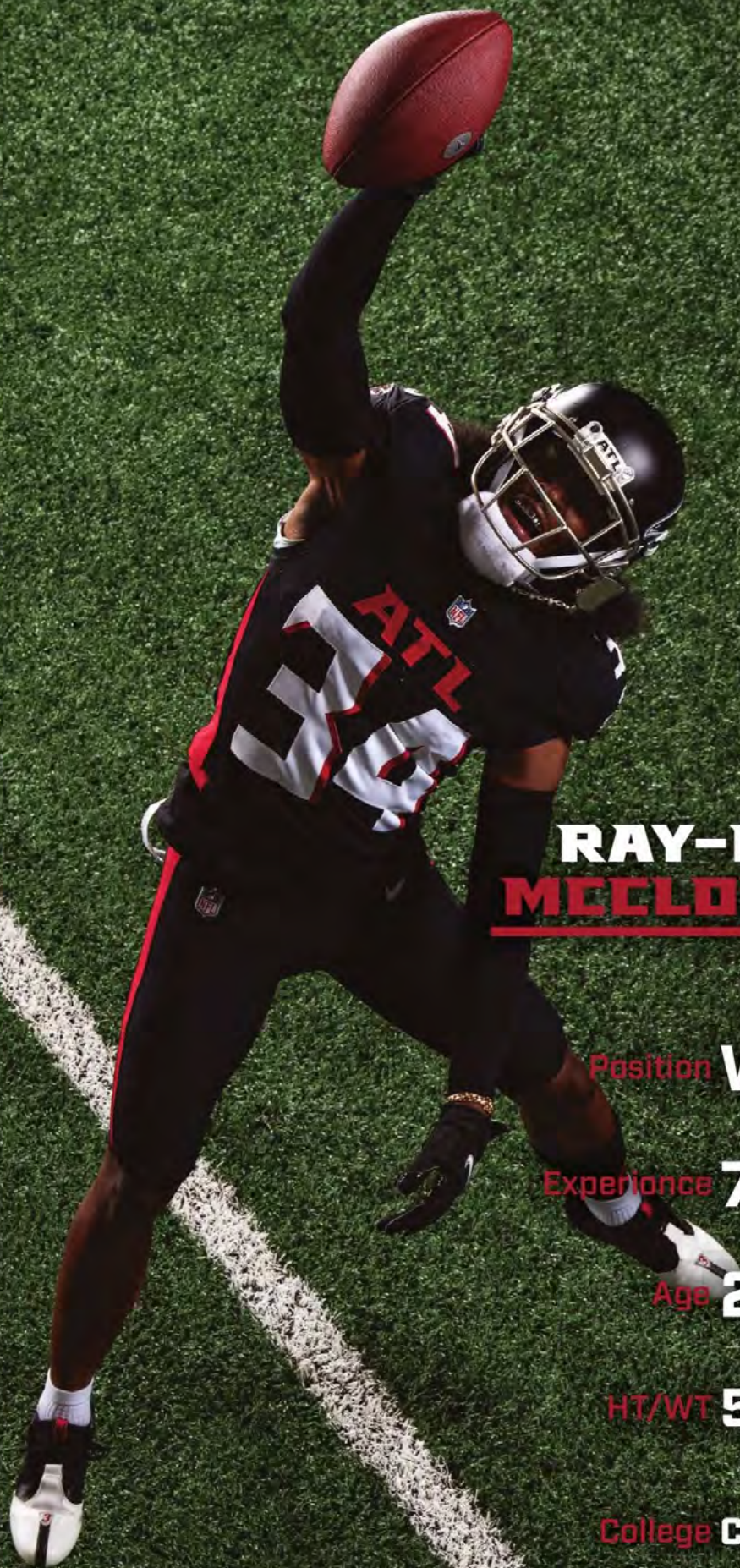
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34
RAY-RAY
MCCLLOUD III



**RAY-RAY
MCCLLOUD III**

Position **WR**

Experience **7**

Age **27**

HT/WT **5-9/190**

College **Clemson**



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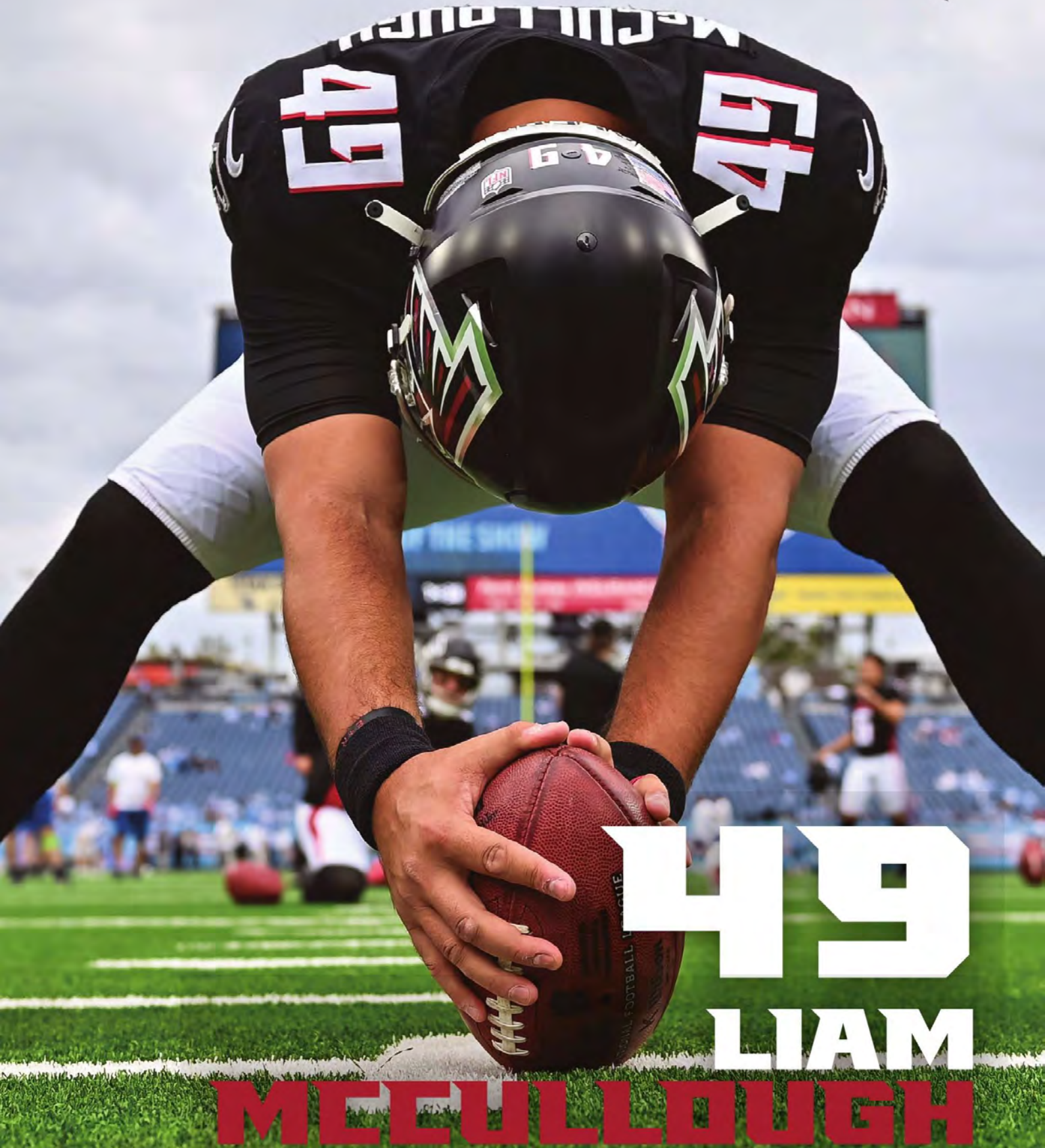




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49

LIAM

MCCULLOUGH



LIAM MCCULLOUGH

Position **LS**

Experience **3**

Age **27**

HT/WT **6-2/247**

College **Ohio State**

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76
KALEB
MCGARY



**KALEB
MCGARY**

Position **T**

Experience **5**

Age **29**

HT/WT **6-6/306**

College **Washington**



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DARNELL
MOONEY



DARNELL **MOONEY**

Position **WR**

Experience **5**

Age **26**

HT/WT **5-11/177**

College **Tulane**



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90
DAVID
ONYEMATA



**DAVID
ONYEMATA**

Position **DL**

Experience **9**

Age **31**

HT/WT **6-4/300**

College **Manitoba
[Canada]**

A photograph of Morten Andersen, a man with grey hair, wearing a gold blazer over a black shirt. He is smiling and has his arms outstretched in a gesture of celebration or encouragement. The background is a blurred crowd of people at a stadium.

What you give will grow... what you keep will perish!

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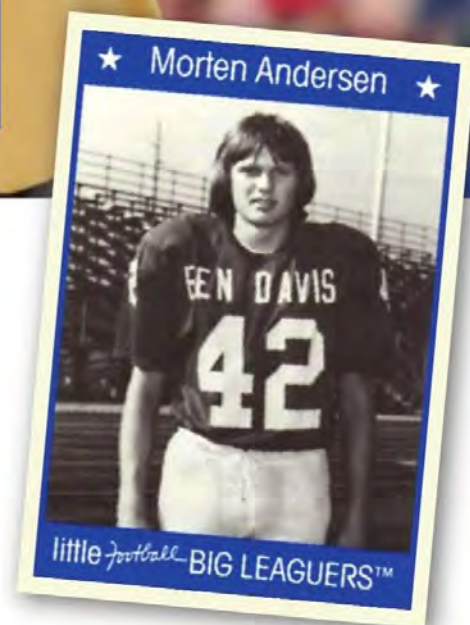
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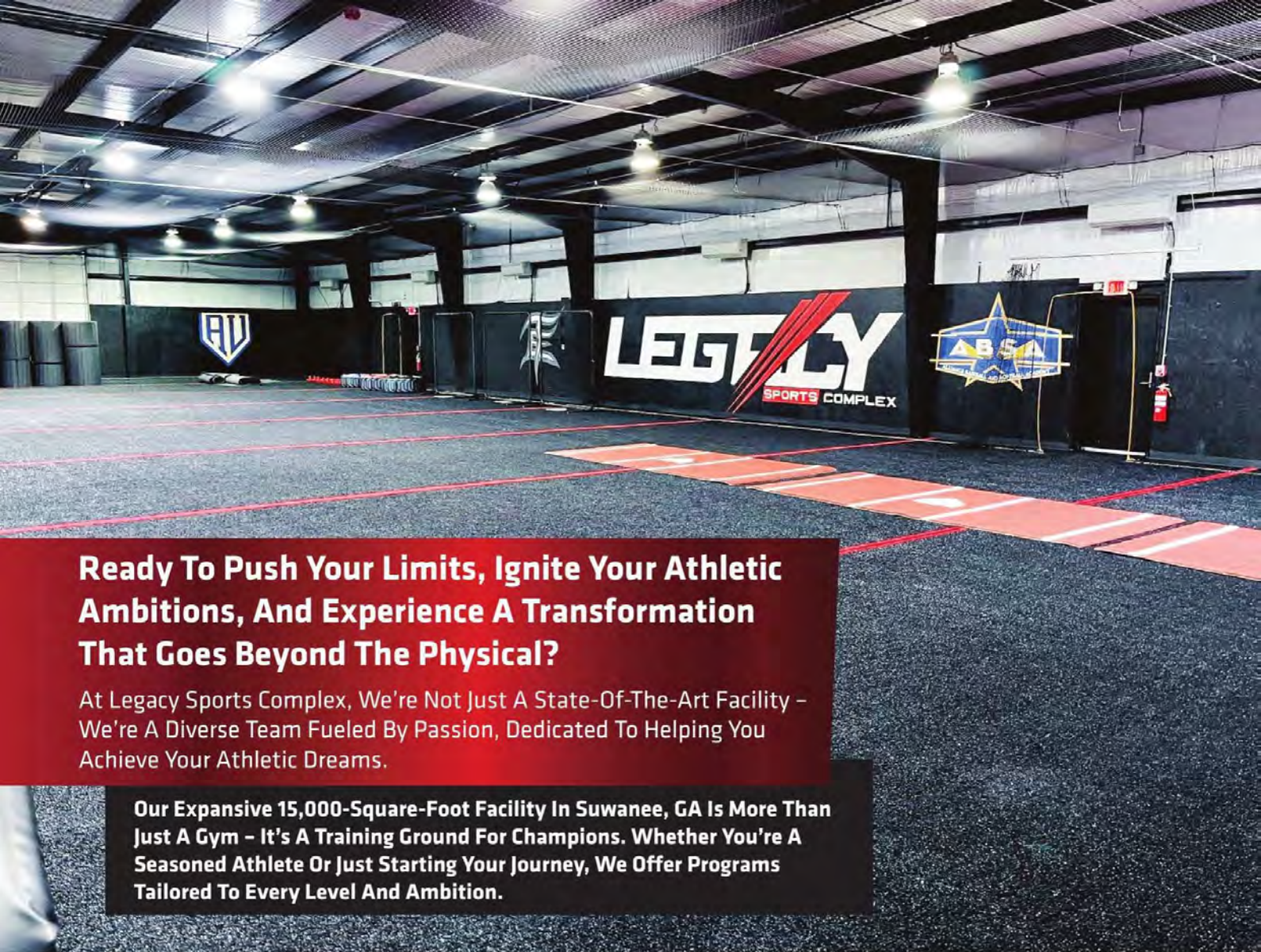
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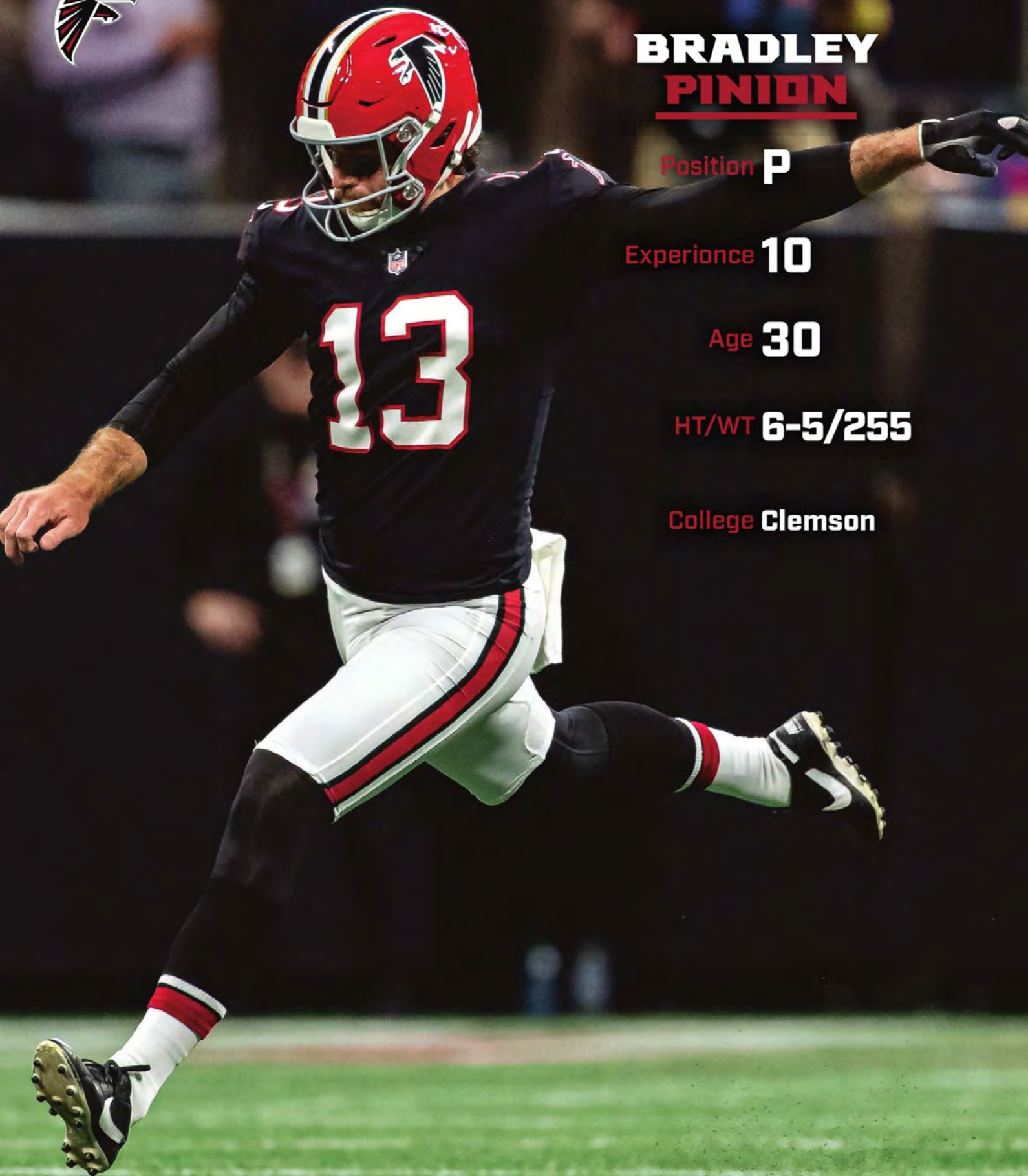
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13

BRADLEY PINION



**BRADLEY
PINION**

Position **P**

Experience **10**

Age **30**

HT/WT **6-5/255**

College **Clemson**

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26



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8
KYLE
PITTS



**KYLE
PITTS**

Position **TE**

Experience **4**

Age **23**

HT/WT **6-6/246**

College **Florida**



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7

BIJAN
ROBINSON



BIJAN ROBINSON

Position **RB**

Experience **2**

Age **22**

HT/WT **5-11/215**

College **Texas**





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24

A.J.
TERRELL



**A.J.
TERRELL**

Position **CB**

Experience **5**

Age **25**

HT/WT **6-1/194**

College **Clemson**



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89

CHARLIE
WOERNER



CHARLIE WOERNER

Position **TE**

Experience **5**

Age **26**

HT/WT **6-5/241**

College **Georgia**



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BIJAN ROBINS

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STORY BY TERRIN WAACK



ON AMPLE

THE BRAND

To understand Bijan Robinson's brand, one must know the person, the player and the philanthropist. There can't be one without the others. They all coexist to create the Atlanta Falcons running back.

"Having the Bijan brand," Robinson said, "is something that I really take seriously."

The concept of a brand nowadays is rather abstract. It has grown beyond companies and their marketing to include individuals and their platforms. The term can be used to describe Nike, Apple and Google but also Michael Jordan, Derek Jeter and Tom Brady.

Something that remains consistent with the notion: not everything, nor everyone, becomes a household name. Robinson is cracking into that echelon, with one priority in mind.

"I want them to say, 'Man, this is a good dude,'" Robinson said. "Everything else in his life is everything else. But first and foremost, he's a really good guy to everybody."

Robinson's brand took off three years ago when the NIL period commenced during his collegiate career at the University of Texas. It then grew when Robinson went No. 8 overall in the 2023 NFL Draft to the Falcons. And it will surely set Robinson up for a future after football.



Through all phases of his life, Robinson has remained true to himself. His brand, therefore, has benefited as a reflection of his character. An expert would be Capture Sports and Entertainment president Chellee Siewert, who manages the marketing of many top athletes.

"The brand was made because of who he is," Siewert said. "Not the other way around."

THE PLAYER

The day before No. 25 Texas was set to host No. 1 Alabama, Robinson gifted all his teammates a custom-made pair of Beats Studio headphones. They were burnt orange, matching the Longhorns' home uniform for that Week 2 showdown, and came with a personalized message, emphasizing 2022 would be Texas' year.

Beats Studio headphones cost at least \$150 apiece — easily. There were more than 100 players rostered at the time.

Texas running backs coach Tashard Choice also received a pair. He wasn't surprised by Robinson's grand gesture. In fact, it tracked for the then-junior who drove a Lamborghini because he saw it as a recruiting tool for Texas.

"He created his brand the minute he came in here: how he acts, how he treats people, how he moves," Choice said. "People want to attach themselves because of who he is."

The NIL era began officially on July 1, 2021. Within a month, Robinson signed his first deal with Raising Cane's. That was before his sophomore year. He left after his junior season with 10 partnerships on his resume, including Cameo, Lamborghini Austin, Athletic Brewing Company and more.

When Robinson signed that first NIL deal, he only had one season under his belt — 2020 — and it was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a freshman, Robinson played in nine games, rushed for 703 yards and scored six touchdowns. Businesses believed in his potential enough to partner with him.

In 2021, Robinson played in 10 games, rushed for 1,127 yards and scored 15 touchdowns. More people took notice.

It was in May 2022 when Robinson landed Lamborghini.

"I think the cameras would have found him either way," Texas director of player development Kevin Washington said, "because of the success he is and the personality that he's got."

The following season would ultimately be Robinson's last at Texas. He played in 12 games, rushed for 1,580 yards and scored 20 touchdowns. He won the 2022 Doak Walker Award, given to the nation's most outstanding running back, becoming the fourth Longhorn to earn the recognition.

Robinson further inked his name in the Texas record books with his three-year career: No. 1 for yards per carry in a game (19.1), No. 3 in rushing touchdowns (33) and No. 4 in rushing yards (3,410) and total touchdowns (41).

"Sometimes, some people look at him like, 'Oh, I'm going to have that,'" Washington said. "No, no, no. Bijan is like one of those once-every-decade type of people."

Funny thing is, Robinson didn't necessarily act that way. He was rarely the loudest in a room, nor did he frequently boast about himself. Can't say never to either scenario, because even Robinson knew when to speak up and acknowledge his talent.

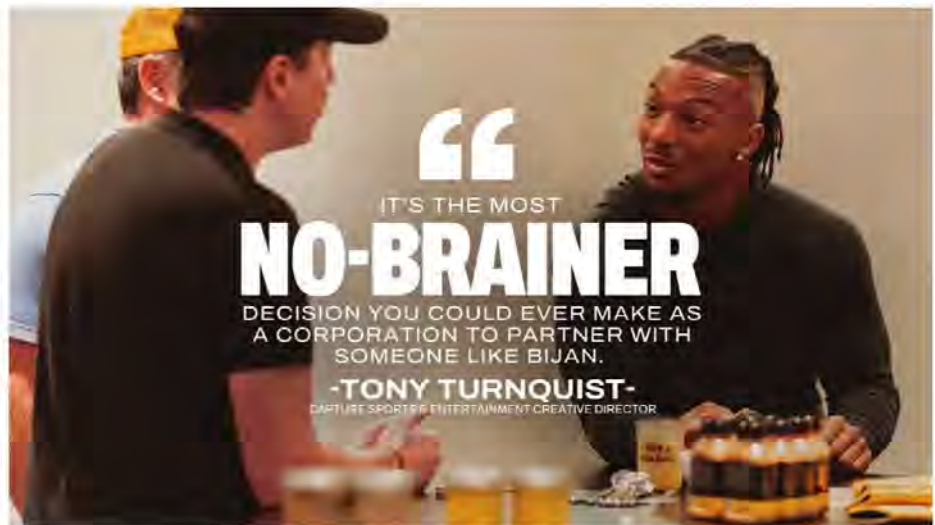
NIL opportunities continuously pushed him out of his comfort zone as his on-field performance kept him in the spotlight during his final two years at Texas. Even then, he adapted but remained the same.

Confident. Not cocky.

"The example that he set?" Choice said. "You can be a superstar and be a great person."

THE PHILANTHROPIST

Before Robinson even signed his rookie contract with the Falcons, he was financially thinking ahead. Per usual, not about himself. Rather, the community.



That's why his aunt and manager, Cleyrissa Robinson, reached out to Siewert at Capture Sports and Entertainment as soon as pen hit paper. They needed to discuss the future of the Bijan Robinson Foundation, which Siewert helps oversee. The timing of the call shocked Siewert, considering it came before Robinson ever saw a dollar, but the request itself was even more wow-worthy.

Robinson wanted to set aside his own funds for philanthropic efforts.

"I think that is relatively unique," Siewert said. "A lot of times, athletes will utilize endorsement opportunities [or] utilize going out and doing fundraising events. But he was first and foremost saying, 'I am going to give back, and it's going to be my money.'"

The Bijan Robinson Foundation was founded in 2023 and aims to make a difference in three key areas: faith, homelessness and youth.

This past June, according to the NFLPA, Robinson donated \$300,000 toward a planned neighborhood in Austin, Texas, that offers affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women who are coming out of chronic homelessness.

"He's someone who is obviously great on the field, but he's just the greatest human off the field," Siewert said. "Very authentic. He wants to make that impact with the platform that he's been given."

And he's not afraid to get hands-on with his help.

Robinson got in the water with TankProof, a non-profit that provides free swimming lessons and food to Austin kids in need. He delivered \$3,000 worth of backpacks to students at Austin Harmony School of Excellence. He surprised the Austin Junior Jags youth football and cheerleading program in person after making the organization's largest donation of \$25,000.

The list goes on.

"If there is a line of kids or people outside the door coming to meet him, he will shake every single one of their hands and talk with them for even a few minutes," Capture Sports and Entertainment creative director Tony Turnquist said, "because he knows that might be the only interaction he has with them and how special that is to them."

Robinson takes this power very seriously. His intentionality goes beyond being kind to fans. It extends to everyone with whom he associates. Each collaboration is thought out, ensuring values align. If not, Robinson is better off without them.

The same may not be the case vice versa.

"It's the most no-brainer decision you could ever make as a corporation," Turnquist said, "to partner with someone like Bijan."

THE PERSON

Three unmarked jars sit in front of Robinson, each waiting to be taste-tested for the first time by the face of the franchise. Bijan Mustardson plans to release a trio of flavors in 2024: classic, honey and spicy. They'll soon join the staple, Dijon, on grocery store shelves across the country.

One at a time, Robinson scoops a bit of each with a mini pretzel before chowing down and providing feedback. He takes the latter seriously, too.

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THE EXAMPLE THAT HE SETS? YOU CAN BE A

SUPERSTAR AND BE A
GREAT PERSON

-TASHARD CHOICE-

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RUNNING BACKS COACH

giving his honest opinion on whether any tweaks need to be made before a final product is solidified. Its success equals his own.

Robinson's name became a concrete brand in August 2022 when Bijan Mustardson launched as "The Official Dijon of Bijan."

"It starts with a pun," co-founder David Hughes said. "That's how you get people to lean in. We knew we'd sell one bottle because everyone loves [Robinson]. But we're like, 'Man, if we make this good and we can sell two bottles, we have a business.' And it went from there."

"The success that it has seen in 18 months is unbelievable. We sold mustard in every state in the entire United States."

Hughes and fellow co-founder Craig Allen run an advertising firm. When NIL opened a new realm of options in the sports world, they brainstormed ways to get involved — uniquely. They wanted to provide an athlete with a more hands-on experience, not just another endorsement opportunity.

Through the industry grapevine, Hughes and Allen heard about Robinson's down-to-earth nature. They took a chance and asked to meet. Robinson was hesitant at first but kept an open mind.

One convincing pitch later, the two parties shook hands on Bijan Mustardson, overlooking the Top Golf course in Austin.

"It started out as a fun job," Allen said. "But I think what we've all learned through the process is it's a lot of work to get it to what we're doing now, getting the mustard right, getting the distribution right. The fun part is when we get to make commercials. That's easy."

The mustard itself is manufactured in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, by a fourth-generation mustard family. Meaning, it's fresh. Bijan Mustardson isn't just slapping its label on an existing bottle.

According to its website, Bijan Mustardson can be found at 64 different locations. It's also available to purchase online, along with a variety of merchandise. In addition to the expected goods, such as hats, tees, cups, koozies and stickers, there are more unique items, like a flare, chainsaw, hang glider, jet ski and more.

Clearly, the brand of Bijan Mustardson is meant to reflect good vibes. That's how it started, and that's where it's meant to go.

"Eventually, we'd like to get this to where it's a product that gives back

to student athletes in new ways," Hughes said. "Not just individual ones, but across genders, across sports. We don't think this has to be just a football mustard."

The possibilities of expansion seem endless. After the taste-testing, Robinson pitched ideas. Most are actually in the works and therefore hush-hush for now. Rest assured, Hughes and Allen mirrored Robinson's enthusiasm.

Bijan Mustardson began when Robinson was still in college, has carried into his professional career and will live on beyond his gridiron days.

"You can play for as long as you want to play," Hughes said. "We can do this until the end of time."

THE POTENTIAL

To appreciate the brand Robinson has built, one must remember he is only 22 years old. He was thrust into the

public eye at age 19. Everything above developed in the span of four years.

"All the things I've done," Robinson said, "I've tried to do it the right way."

There was no roadmap for Robinson to follow. His class was a guinea pig for NIL. His foundation was an independent endeavor. And his mustard was the first of its kind.

Yet, despite the pressures that come with the privileges and responsibilities that have and will continue to surface, Robinson hasn't lost sight of who he is.

"Yeah, I still feel 22," Robinson said. "I have friends who always remind me, 'Bro, you're young. Enjoy your time. Obviously you have your whole life to live, but enjoy these moments, enjoy the young moments. You're doing some special things as a 22-year-old kid. Just know that you don't need to live like you're 30 years old or like you're 40. You just stay in your moments and stay in your present.'"

One day, Robinson will have to hang up his cleats. It's inevitable for everyone.

Now, something that can't be said about everyone: Robinson shouldn't fear the unknown that follows retirement.

His brand is on a trajectory where he need not worry.



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ZIMBABWE PROUD

TRACING BACK NATE LANDMAN'S AFRICAN ROOTS

BY: TERRIN WAACK

For two decades, Nate Landman relied on photos and stories to paint a picture of a life he barely remembered but clung to as the core of his identity.

Landman was born in Zimbabwe in late 1998 and moved to America in early 2002.

It wasn't until this past April that Landman returned to the country he still considers home and connected the dots between expectations and reality.

"I would always brag about being from Africa," Landman said. "People would ask me what it was like, and I tried to describe what my parents would say. Now, I can describe it myself."

And he will, with unabashed excitement.

As a linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons, Landman holds the power to support Zimbabwe on a national scale. In fact, the NFL Heritage Program is currently amid its two-week run of recognizing the league's international diversity. More than 330 players and coaches honored their cultural backgrounds by wearing international flag decals on their uniforms last weekend, and they will do so again with this round of games.

In Landman's case, a Zimbabwean flag has been placed next to the American sticker on his helmet. He's the only one with that combination.



"It means a lot," Landman said. "I have a tremendous amount of pride being born in Zimbabwe."

Settling on the decision to emigrate took Shaun and Mandy Landman months. Zimbabwe was the only place they'd ever called home. They were both raised there. They each had extended family there. They fell in love as high-school sweethearts and gave birth to all four children there.

But when Shaun's company, a global engineering consulting firm called Arup, offered him a position in California, the appeal of the American Dream was too strong to pass up.

"The primary driver was the (unstable) economic and political situation in Zimbabwe at the time," Shaun said. "That, coupled with kids being young enough to make that move – Nate was 3 – so it wasn't going to be super disruptive to their lives.

"We felt if we weren't going to do it then, we weren't going to do it ever.

So we took the chance."

Nate is the youngest of the immediate Landman clan at 24 years old. The eldest is his sister, Ocean, who's 32. Brothers Brendan and Ty are 28 and 30, respectively.

Because of their older ages, Nate's siblings could recall what it was like living in Zimbabwe. It was only Nate who struggled in that regard. He absorbed every detail shared, though, and his family didn't hold back.

"We wanted to embrace American cultures as this is our new home – make sure Nate was exposed to that – whilst we maintain connection back to our African roots," Shaun said.

The house itself was – and still is – decorated with the African furniture and wood carvings Shaun and Mandy had transported over in a container. Songs from the Shona tribe – one of the two largest in Zimbabwe – often carried from room to room, which remained clean thanks to Friday chores.



Home is here now. But of course, like I say, our roots will always be in Africa.

—MANDY LANDMAN

For the most part, the children were pushed outside. Their father's background as a collegiate and professional rugby player left no choice: The Landman kids would play sports. That's how Nate got into football, since it's much more prominent in America than rugby.

The sole TV was rarely on. Wednesdays were the exception, because new episodes of "Survivor" aired, and that was the only show the Landmans watched in Zimbabwe and could also in America.

"Because we didn't have any family and friends here to celebrate birthdays or to make my kids feel special on a regular basis, I would come up with all sorts of random traditions," Mandy said. "One of them was 'Survivor' night. ... I would always make a dessert. We call it pudding."

Even the weekly treat tied back to Africa sometimes, such as when Mandy baked koeksisters.

Speaking of food, dinner was always consumed at the table, as a unit. Mandy regularly cooked the traditional Zimbabwean dish of "sadza ne nyama ne relish," which the kids enjoyed because they traditionally ate with their hands. Otherwise, table manners and etiquette were taken seriously. No one was excused until plates were cleaned.

"I was quite homesick for a while for the life I left behind," Mandy said. "But, looking back, oh my gosh, they were the richest years of my life. Our family of six really got so close because of that."

His upbringing alone taught Nate what he needed to know most about the Zimbabwean way of life: Family first.

That's ultimately why Shaun accepted the job relocation and Mandy supported the international move. They knew America could ultimately provide a better life for their kids with more opportunities for growth in the United States.

"Their long-term visions are slowly coming true: All my siblings are super, super successful," Nate said. "I think my parents are proud of all of us and the decision — the hard decision — they made sacrificing their comfortability and uprooting their life that they had built back in Africa to come to the United States to make a life for us."

The car rumbled down the rough roads of Cape Town, South Africa, with Nate, Mandy, Shaun and Nate's girlfriend, Brynna Deluzio, jostling around inside. They had just arrived at the airport and picked up their rental, ready to embark on Nate's first trip back to Africa since he was a child.

To his parents' surprise, Nate knew how to drive a stick shift. Shaun handed over the keys upon that discovery, encouraging Nate to navigate the foreign streets himself.

"It was a couple of jolts here and there," Mandy said. "But we just kept quiet."

Shaun and Mandy wanted Nate to have the full African experience. That included the little things, such as traffic flowing in the opposite direction than the United States.

The crew of four began the two-week April adventure in Cape Town, where Shaun attended college. They ventured to Victoria Falls, which is one of the Seven Natural Wonders

of the World as the border between Zimbabwe and Zambia. They fished nearby on the Zambezi River and also in Lake Kariba.

"These are great fishing spots for game fishing, so Nate got to experience that," Shaun said. "He just loved it all. I think he felt a real connection, connecting with the country and with some of the culture that he's grown up to but not really experienced firsthand."

Fishing would always trigger the few memories Nate held from his early years in Zimbabwe. The action itself, not just pictures. Because there is an album's worth of young Nate — normally barefoot — near the water at his grandparents' lake house out in the African bush.

So, for Nate to be able to fish while in Zimbabwe again, his two worlds finally merged into one. Especially when staying in the Landman's hometown of Harare, because his cousins were able to join, picking up where they left off 20-plus years ago.

"Even though they hadn't seen each other since Nate was 3, the love, the bond and the affection was instantly there," Mandy said. "It made us emotional to see. It was hard to leave."

Shaun and Mandy had previously been back to Zimbabwe a handful of



I have a tremendous amount of pride being born in Zimbabwe.

—NATE LANDMAN



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times since the move, but never really on happy terms. They went back for both of Mandy's parents' funerals and also for Shaun's mother's. This was different. This was special.

This was completing the puzzle that is their son, fitting the final piece with him.

"Nobody ever believes me when I say I was born in Africa," Nate said. "Just being different and being able to be proud of something else, I think that's the biggest takeaway.

"I'm representing something bigger than myself, too. My family that's in Zimbabwe. The country."

Nate officially earned his United States citizenship at 20 years old, when he was a sophomore at Colorado.

That same year, he got a tattoo of Africa on his chest, the outline of Zimbabwe forever inked specifically near his heart.

Nate also has a lion – or "shumba" in Shona's native language – tattooed on his upper left arm and an African safari design that acknowledges the two Zimbabwean tribes and also lists his parents' and siblings' birth years in Roman numerals farther down the same forearm.

"I'll always claim being from Africa, even as a U.S. citizen," Nate said. "It's something I'm super proud of, and my family is super proud of."

Nate plans to visit Zimbabwe every two years now. His parents hope to get the whole family out there together, sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, all of the Landmans are happy with their lives in America.

"Home is here now," Mandy said. "But of course, like I say, our roots will always be in Africa."



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THANK YOU MATT RYAN



‘THE EPITOME OF THE FALCONS’

Former players, coaches share favorite moments of Matt Ryan’s career

By Tori McElhaney and Amna Subhan

From the moment Matt Ryan stepped onto the field, he emanated greatness. From his first pass resulting in a touchdown to leading the Falcons to their second NFC championship and through a Super Bowl run, Ryan put together one of the most significant careers in franchise history.

Now, after 15 seasons, 62,792 passings yards, 381 touchdown passes, four Pro Bowl appearances and an NFL MVP award, Ryan officially closes the book on his storied career, retiring as an Atlanta Falcon.

To honor his 14 seasons with the franchise, AtlantaFalcons.com compiled accounts from former teammates and coaches as they reminisce on some of the most memorable moments of Ryan’s career.



AN





SEPT. 7, 2008 — THE DEBUT

After being drafted No. 3 overall in the 2008 NFL Draft, Ryan made his professional debut in the Falcons home opener against the Detroit Lions.

Todd McClure, center: The first time he ever stepped in the huddle we were cutting up, and he stepped in and with a few choice words got the veterans' attention. Then, his first NFL pass...

The first pass of Ryan's career was a 62-yard touchdown catch by wide receiver Michael Jenkins.

Michael Jenkins, wide receiver: The joy on [his] face after catching the first pass of [his] career for a touchdown is something I'll never forget. I am glad I was a part of that.

John Abraham, defensive end: His first pass was the most incredible thing I ever saw. It was foreshadowing of what we were in for.

D.J. Shockley, quarterback: He came to the sideline and could hardly breathe from the moment. He looks at me and says, "Bro, what in the hell just happened?"

Mike Smith, head coach: (He) instantly became the leader of the Falcons team, on and off the field.

In that moment...

Abraham: The whole stadium and franchise smiled.

OCT. 12, 2008 — THE COMING OUT PARTY

In Week 6, Ryan completed his first (of many) game-winning drives at home against the Chicago Bears.

Jenkins: You see why they called [him] Matty Ice vs. Chicago.

Michael Turner, running back: That was his coming out party, that he could lead a team in tough times.

With 17 seconds left in the game, the Bears lined up to score a go-ahead touchdown to go up 20-19. The celebrations were premature. With six seconds left, the Falcons took the field. On the first snap, Ryan hit Jenkins for a 26-yard pass to set up the winning field goal.

Jenkins: A clutch corner route to get us in field goal range for the winning kick. That was special.

Turner: That throw to Michael Jenkins on that drive was a perfect throw. We had time for just one throw to have a chance to get into field goal position. ... That's when I was like, "Yeah, that man is here."

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JAN. 14, 2013 — THE PLAYOFF

The Falcons hadn't won a playoff game since 2004. Ryan and company had three chances before the 2012 season but fell short each time. That would change in the NFC divisional game versus the Seattle Seahawks.

Roddy White, wide receiver: The Seattle playoff game was the best game I have seen.

Gonzalez: People can do all they want during the regular season, but what separates you is when you get to the playoffs and you make plays in the clutch moment. Matt was very good at that during the regular season, he's got a load of comebacks. But in the playoffs is when it really, really counts.

He was able to step up, and it was like, "OK, this guy's gonna be a great player for a long time."

Atlanta shut out the Seahawks 20-0 in the first half, but Seattle come storming back to take a late, one-point lead with 31 seconds left. Then, Ryan and the Falcons got the ball back.

McClure: I think my favorite moment [with Matt] would be him leading the game-winning drive against Seattle in the 2012 playoffs.

Gonzalez: Basically, we had no room for error, and the way Matt got — it was all confidence. It all started with him in the huddle. ... That drive right there was one of the greatest moments I've ever had a chance to be a part of. It is.

It really is the greatest drive that I've ever been a part of because of the implications. We went to the NFC championship game off of that drive.

JAN. 22, 2016 — THE MVP YEAR

The Falcons organization reached a crescendo with Ryan in the 2016 season. The team reached new heights of success, carrying the title of NFC South divisional champions into the postseason.

Gonzalez: He was the best quarterback in the NFL that year. It was to the point where I was watching him like, "This guy can't miss." Everything was just perfect. On time.

Jake Matthews, offensive tackle: He was lights out. He was a big reason why we got to where we did. There were a lot of games that year that were pretty spectacular.

Maybe none as much as the NFC championship game against Green Bay when the Falcons punched their ticket to the Super Bowl with a 44-21 win over the Packers.

Dan Quinn, head coach: Four touchdowns, zero sacks, zero interceptions, 392 yards. You talk about precision and trying to carve somebody up? That kind of mindset and that kind of performance stood out to me.

And because he is Matty Ice, but also Matty Wheels. I look back and he ran three times for 23 yards. That is a big day for Matt rushing the ball.

Shockley: That NFC championship game, dude was locked in. *Though Atlanta would fall short in the Super Bowl, the 2016 season cemented Ryan's legacy as MVP and Offensive Player of the Year.*

Gonzalez: His impact on the game, I mean, he was an MVP, he took them to a Super Bowl. He was a franchise quarterback. He's somebody that comes in and changes the face of the organization.

DEC. 18, 2017 — THE MOMENT

EVERYONE REMEMBERS

On Monday Night Football, the Falcons were attempting to hold onto a small 17-14 lead in the fourth quarter in Tampa Bay. With about nine minutes remaining in the game, the broadcast caught Ryan scream a phrase that has been connected to him ever since, especially by those who know him best.

Quinn: My favorite Matt Ryan memory has got to be from the TV broadcast, "Get f— set!" versus Tampa Bay.

The reason I say that is because it saw a glimpse into the competitor that [he is] and the details and the standards that [he] had. That space for me is reserved for just a few people who are the rare competitors, and [he] brought out the best in me.

Matt Schaub, quarterback: That just told you what things meant to him. We were winning the game, but it's just the expectation, the commitment that he had to getting things right.

Alex Mack, center: Matt was not afraid to take the game deadly seriously and hold his teammates accountable. I loved having a quarterback who demanded excellence of those around him.

Quinn: That is one of my favorite memories, not because of the quote, but because of what it stood for.

JAN. 9, 2022: THE FINALE

Ryan's final game with the Falcons was Atlanta's final game of the 2021 season, when the Falcons hosted the Saints. Ryan's final pass as a Falcon was a touchdown, ending a 14-year Atlanta career exactly how it began. The Falcons didn't win the game, but what Ryan meant to a young team in 2021 still holds weight in 2024.

Chris Lindstrom, guard: I couldn't have asked for a better teammate or leader in the locker room. Really, just a role model for me, showing what it takes to be a pro.

Kyle Pitts, tight end: [He] took me under his wing my rookie year and showed me the way. It was rough, but he helped me out from the start.

Lindstrom: My locker was next to his, and Matt always took care of me every day since Day 1.

Pitts: He used to take me out in pre-game practice. I had to force myself to get dressed early, but learning plays with him because it was time to play. He helped me a lot.

Matthews: He was a great teammate, a great player and someone who I have the utmost respect for and would love to emulate.

APRIL 22, 2024 — THE LEGACY

After 15 years in the league, Ryan officially retired on April 22, 2024, almost exactly 16 years to the day from the moment he entered the league as a Falcon. For many, his career can't be summed up in a short sentence, but many tried, and likely succeeded.

Schaub: Matt embodies what it means to be a National Football League starting quarterback: His work ethic, his commitment to not only himself but his teammates and the game. He always did whatever he could to make sure that he was ready to go Sunday.

Gonzalez: He's the best quarterback that I've ever played with. ... The first time [I saw] Matt take control of the huddle, he said, "Hey, everybody shut up! We're gonna go out there, and we're gonna score."

He put everybody in there place. I'm older at the time, too, and my first reaction was like, "What? Hold on now." I remember going, "That's what it's about."

I said to myself, "This guy is gonna have a brilliant career." I knew it was probably going to go that way anyway, but you could see the maturity of him developing into that upper echelon quarterback in the NFL.

Schaub: It could be Week 1, it could be August, it could be Week 16 — it didn't matter. His preparation was the same no matter what. That's why I think he played such a long time at such a high level.

Smith: [He] changed the trajectory of the Falcons in 2008 when [he] joined the team.

McClure: It is truly my honor to call him a teammate. He is, and always has been, a pro's pro.

Mack: Matt's career is a model for future quarterbacks. Anyone trying to play this game should take a long look at what Matt was able to do and why. ... I am grateful to have played for the Falcons while we had such a stable, consistent and excellent leader of the team.

Quinn: Getting the chance to see what a real competitor looks like up close and personal for six years was one of my biggest thrills in coaching, man.

Abraham: The epitome of the Falcons!

FINAL NOTE: Though this oral history was co-written by Tori McElhaney and Amna Subhan, they would like to give a special thank you to Nicole Dennis, Matt Haley, Terrin Waack and Shayla Berrian for helping to compile quotes from many of the former coaches and players listed above, as well as the former coaches and players themselves for the time given to reminiscing on and celebrating Matt Ryan's career.



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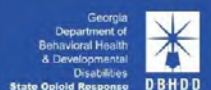
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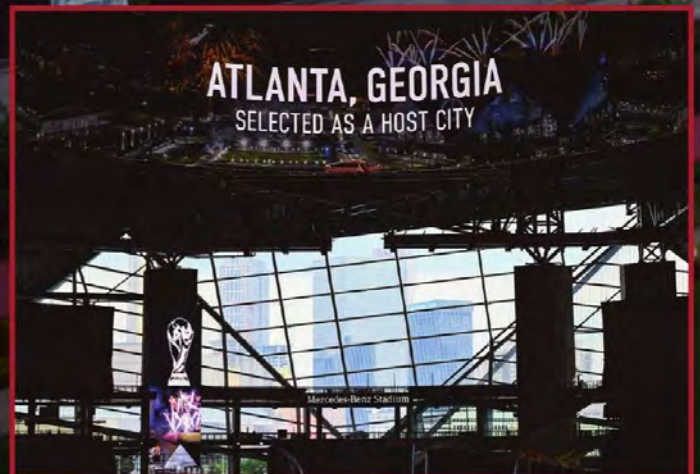
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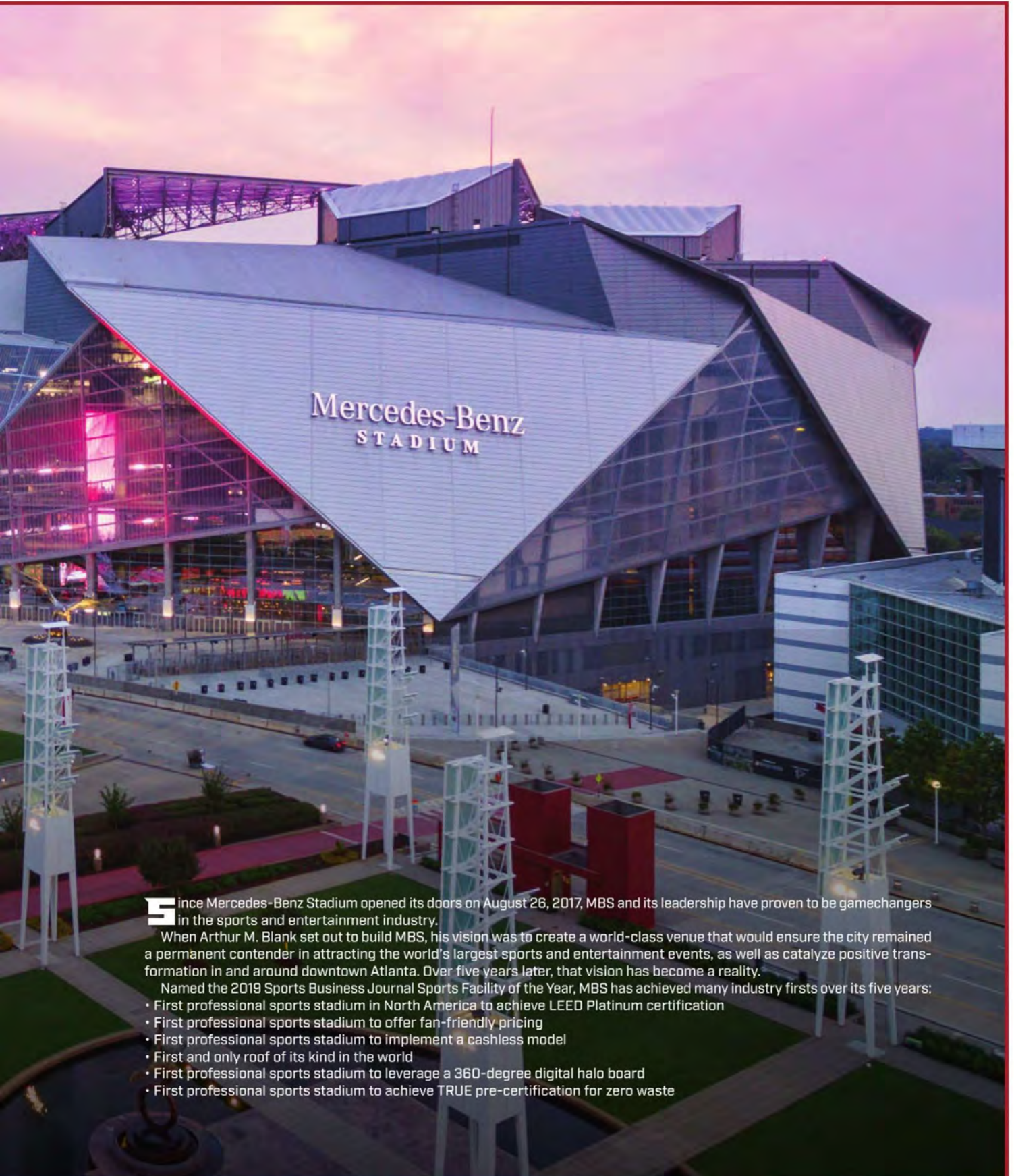
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When Arthur M. Blank set out to build MBS, his vision was to create a world-class venue that would ensure the city remained a permanent contender in attracting the world's largest sports and entertainment events, as well as catalyze positive transformation in and around downtown Atlanta. Over five years later, that vision has become a reality.

Named the 2019 Sports Business Journal Sports Facility of the Year, MBS has achieved many industry firsts over its five years:

- First professional sports stadium in North America to achieve LEED Platinum certification
- First professional sports stadium to offer fan-friendly pricing
- First professional sports stadium to implement a cashless model
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"We continue to push boundaries and strive to be leaders in innovation and fan experience," said AMB Sports and Entertainment CEO Steve Cannon. "Over the last five years, our stadium and its leadership have been honored to host some of the country's largest events such as Super Bowl LIII, the College Football Playoff National Championship and an MLS Cup with our first five years bringing millions of fans and communities together."

"As we look towards the future, now hosting the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship and the 2026 FIFA World Cup, we continue to work hard in uniting our communities, welcoming people from around the world and providing a world-class experience to all guests of Mercedes-Benz Stadium."

EVENTS:

MBS has become one of the busiest stadiums in North America hosting nearly 250 events and over 11 million guests. Since 2017, the venue has hosted the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship, the 2018 MLS All-Star Game and 2018 MLS Cup, Super Bowl LIII in 2019, in addition to numerous Atlanta Falcons games, Atlanta United matches and concerts from A-list artists such as The Rolling Stones, Beyoncé, Luke Combs, Taylor Swift, George Strait, Coldplay and more. In 2022, MBS also achieved a very competitive bid for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and will be the first stadium to repeat as host of the College Football Playoff National Championship in 2025.

INNOVATION:

MBS has become a leader in the sports and entertainment industry in innovation. The stadium was the first professional sports stadium to introduce fan-friendly pricing and to go completely cashless, prompting hundreds of teams and venues to follow. Continuing to be an industry leader, the stadium also implemented a revolutionary entry system with Evolv speeding up entry into the stadium in 2020. Additionally, this summer, the stadium introduced an opt-in biometric entry pilot program to ease the entry experience for fans.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Since construction, MBS has been committed to sustainability and curbing its environmental footprint. Upon completion, the two-million-square-foot building set a new standard, becoming the first professional sports venue in North America to achieve the United States Green Building Council's LEED Platinum certification. In June of this year, MBS also became the first professional sports stadium globally to achieve TRUE pre-certification for its zero waste efforts. Over its five years, the stadium has diverted nearly 6 million pounds of waste. MBS continues to look for innovative solutions to enhance its zero waste programs and further its journey towards becoming a carbon-neutral facility.

COMMUNITY:

Per Mr. Blank's vision, the Stadium has been used to give back to our surrounding communities. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, MBS served as the largest mass vaccination site in the southeast to the greater Atlanta community, delivering over 300,000 vaccinations, and was leveraged as an early-voting location in the 2022 election hosting more than 10,000 voters. Additionally, MBS has provided more than 230,000 pounds of food via Second Helpings to those who are food insecure.

Through the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, more than \$55 million has been committed over the past decade to help transform the historic Westside communities that surround the stadium. As part of the Stadium's philosophy, a concerted effort has been made to hire from the Westside community through the Westside Works program as well as offer Westside youth an opportunity to learn from our businesses through the Westside Ambassadors program.

Mercedes-Benz Stadium's naming rights partner is Mercedes-Benz and has thirteen founding partners, including Coca-Cola, Equifax, The Home Depot, Novelis, SCANA Energy, Truist, IBM, Georgia Power, American Family Insurance, Global Payments, AT&T, and Ticketmaster.

More information about the Mercedes-Benz Stadium over the past five years, is available at mercedesbenzstadium.com/fifth-anniversary.

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By: **Tori McElhaney**

If I am remembering correctly, I was 11 years old when I told my dad I wanted to play football for him when I was older. He was my high school's head football coach at the time, and our lives ebbed and flowed as the football season did. I went to practice every day after school, watching from the sidelines or out the window of my dad's office if the weather was poor.

I told my dad I preferred to play linebacker or tight end for him. I was very specific. I liked those positions best, and thought I could play

them well. Even at 11 years old, what I had was a desire to be around the game. What I didn't have at 11 years old was the size, speed, strength or Y chromosome you apparently needed to play the game. It's something I still don't have at 26 years old. By high school I was winning state championships in softball and thinking about attending the University of Georgia. I still loved football, and that desire to be around the game was still very much there. The reality was that I had to change course, though, if I wanted to continue being around it.



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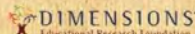
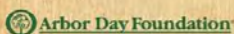


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I had long since decided that as a young girl my role in football could never be actually playing the game. I could watch film and break it down with my dad. I could go to every single practice and every single game. I could even pursue a job that let me be around football every single day. I could love the game. I could not - however - play the game. Not the way I wanted to anyways.

The one time I did get to play was my eighth grade year in the annual powderpuff flag football game. I loved it. But it didn't love me. In the fourth quarter I was chop blocked (illegally I would like to point out) and broke my middle finger. One surgery, two screws and eight weeks of a basketball season missed later and I knew my football playing days were unfortunately behind me. (And in case you're wondering, yes, my middle finger is still crooked).

I write all of this to ultimately say this: I was never given a real opportunity to love the game in the way the boys did. I had to love it differently. It's why even in 2022 and with years of experience I have men say to me that there's no way I could understand the complexities of

the game because I never played it. How could I - a woman - love this game and possibly know anything about it? I didn't play.

Thanks in part to what the Atlanta Falcons are doing, there's about to be an entire generation of girls in the state of Georgia who won't have to hear that derogatory putdown any longer.

Over the last seven years, the Falcons and owner Arthur Blank's foundation have worked to elevate girls flag football in the state of Georgia. What started as a grassroots movements then turned into a full blown sanctioned sport in the state in 2020, with Georgia becoming the fourth of six states to recognize girls flag football in this way.

And girls flag football isn't just surviving in Georgia, it's thriving, with 230 high schools and more than 4,600 players expected to participate throughout the state this fall. More so, now that girls' flag football is secure in Georgia, the Falcons organization is financially supporting Alabama and Montana to get the sport sanctioned in those states as well.

This is important for the next generation of

women working in sports. I'm not saying every single girl participating in flag football this fall will grow up to be a football analyst, or coach, or salary cap cruncher, or even the first female general manager. What I am saying is that by presenting these girls with the opportunity to love the game in this way - by actively participating in it - you include them. By including them, you open doors for them to show you why they can love the game, too.

Every so often I get the chance to speak to young women in high school and college. Almost every single time I am asked about having a seat at the table as a woman covering a man's sport, and almost every time I have the same answer: Don't let anyone tell you that you don't deserve the seat you're in. You do. And you do simply because you love the game. That's enough. Many will try to tell you it's not enough, but it is.

You know what helps young girls know they're enough? When you actually give them the opportunity to play the game they love. You let them love it the way it is supposed to be loved, actively and passionately.



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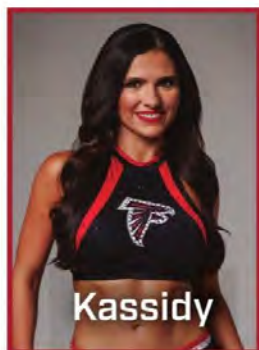
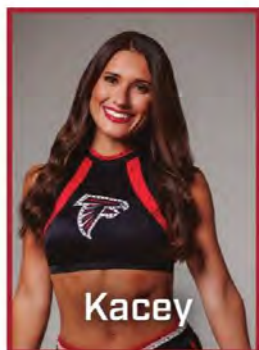
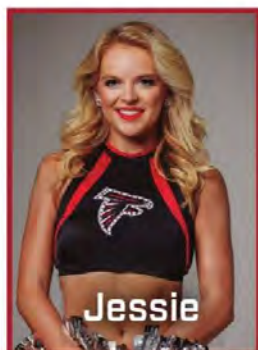
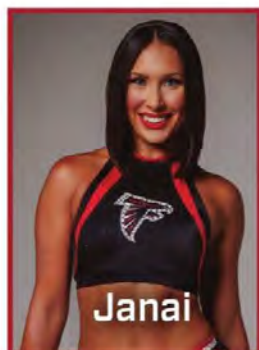
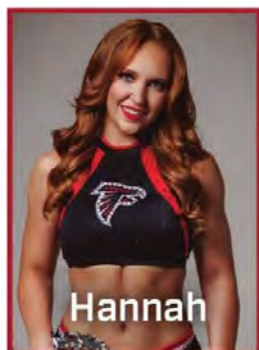
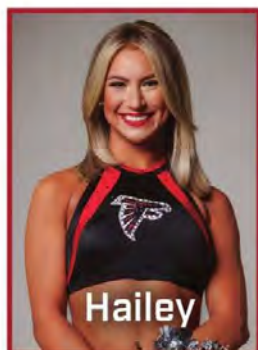
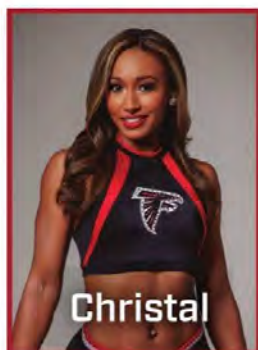
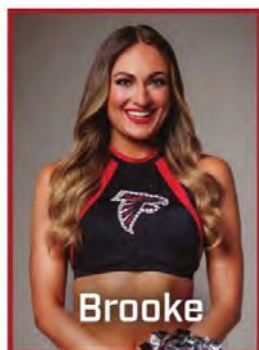
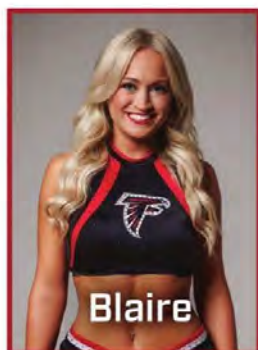
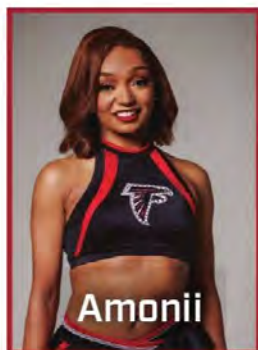
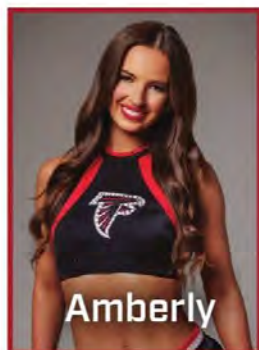
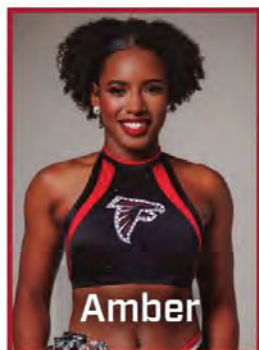
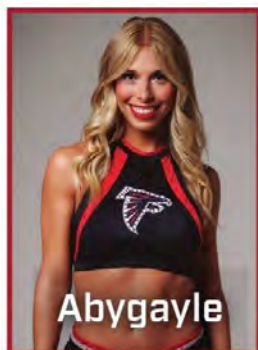
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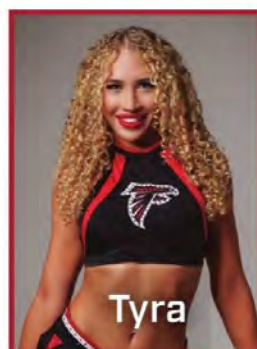
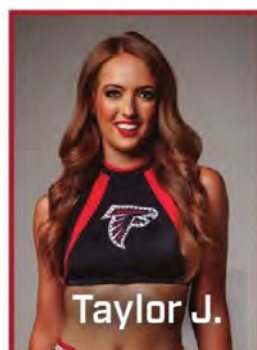
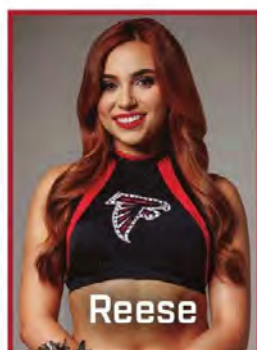
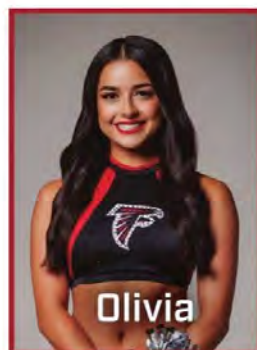
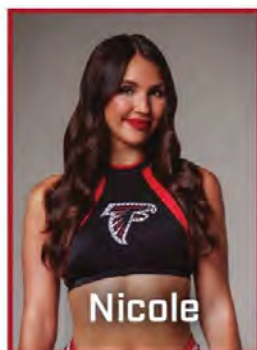
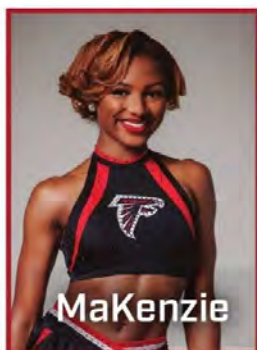
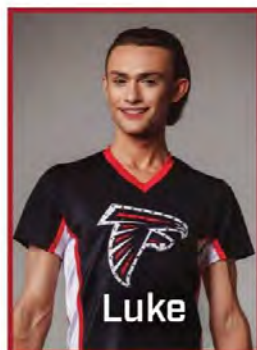
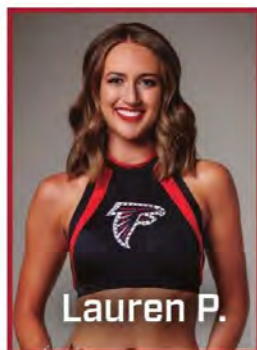
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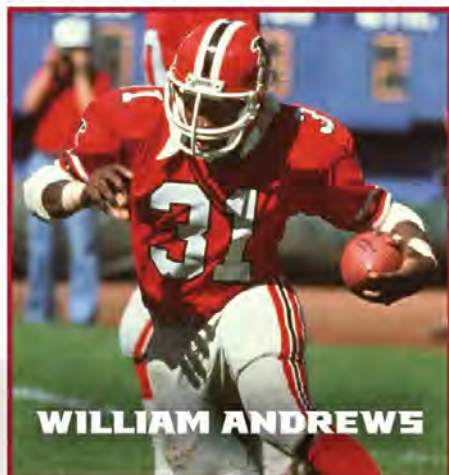
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RING OF HONOR

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2004 INAUGURAL INDUCTEES WILLIAM ANDREWS

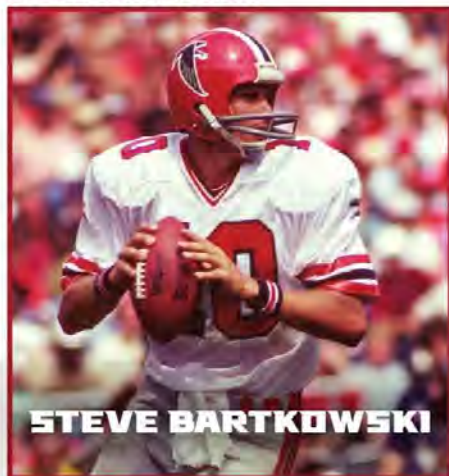


WILLIAM ANDREWS

A third-round pick, Andrews was among the NFL's elite runners when a shocking knee injury prematurely ended his career. He became just the 318 second running back in NFL history to have two 2,000-yard (combined yards) seasons (the only other player prior to Williams was O.J. Simpson). When he had his first 2,000-yard year, he joined just four other backs who had done so (Jim Brown, Walter Payton, Wilbert Montgomery and Simpson). In his first five seasons in the NFL (1979-83), Andrews outgained every other back in

the entire NFL. The bullish Andrews had 8,382 total yards in those five years (an average of 1,677 per year) to lead all NFL runners. Andrews set 19 Falcons club records that began in his very first NFL game in 1979 when he ran for 167 yards in a game at New Orleans where he totaled 189 yards. He was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 and made the NFL All-Rookie team in 1979. He retired in 1987.

STEVE BARTKOWSKI

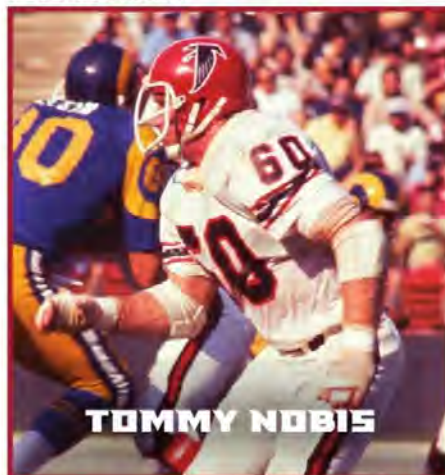


STEVE BARTKOWSKI

Philadelphia Eagles in 1978.

The No. 1 overall draft pick in 1975, he was named the NFL's Rookie of the Year after throwing for 1,662 yards and 15 touchdowns. He set every team record in passing, which included 23,468 career yards and 154 touchdown passes in 123 games. He produced three seasons of 3,000 yards or more passing, 12 games of more than 300 yards passing and two seasons of 30 or more touchdown passes. Bartkowski collected over 50 victories as a starting quarterback for the Falcons and guided the team to their first playoff victory in franchise history over the

TOMMY NOBIS

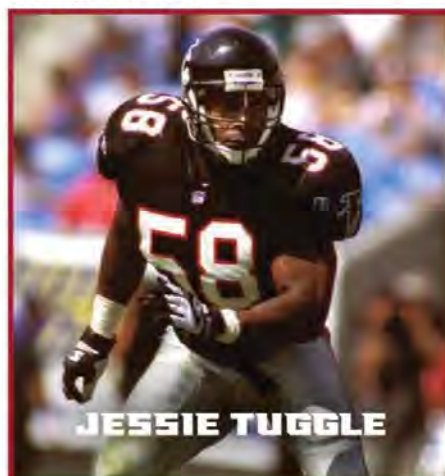


TOMMY NOBIS

The first-ever player drafted by the Atlanta Falcons for the inaugural 1966 season, Nobis quickly became the first-ever Falcons player to be voted to the Pro Bowl after being selected as a rookie. The stellar middle linebacker was named the NFL Rookie of the Year for his efforts. "Mr. Falcon" led the team in tackles in nine of his 11 seasons, while earning five trips to the Pro Bowl. In a poll conducted in 1970 by ABC to pick the best athlete of the decade of the 1960s, running back O.J. Simpson was number one and Tommy Nobis was number two in the

entire country. He had an astronomical 294 total combined tackles as a rookie, still the team's club record. Nobis also intercepted 11 passes during his pro career, returning two for touchdowns. His uniform, No. 60, has been worn by only him during the team's existence. He retired in 1976.

JESSIE TUGGLE



JESSIE TUGGLE

Jessie came to the Falcons as an undrafted free agent in 1987 and retired in August of 2001 as one of the all-time greatest players in franchise history. Nicknamed, "The Hammer", for his bone-jarring tackles, Tuggle is the club's all-time leader in total tackles with 2,065 and enjoyed 12 straight 100-tackle seasons. He led the team in tackles in a season 10 times and amassed 20 or more tackles in a single-game on four occasions with a personal-best of 24 stops. His 14 seasons played, 189 career starts and 209 total games

played are third-most ever in Falcons history. Tuggle's five Pro Bowl appearances (1992, 1995, 1995, 1997, 1998) stand tied for the third-most ever by a Falcons player. The Falcons honored No. 58 with "Jessie Tuggle Day" during halftime of the Falcons game vs. the Detroit Lions on December 22, 2002.

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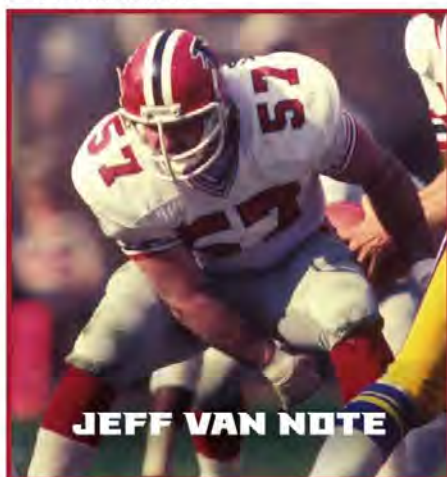
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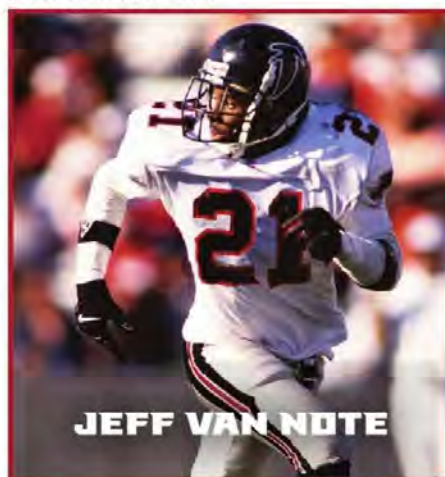
RING OF HONOR

2006 INDUCTEE JEFF VAN NOTE



Holds Falcons team marks for most seasons played (18) and most consecutive games played (155). He is second in the team record books with 246 games played and 225 games started. Van Note originally came to the Falcons as a linebacker from Kentucky, but was moved to center by head coach Norm Van Brocklin and eventually earned the starting job at center in 1970. He earned the first of his six Pro Bowl berths in 1974. Van Note is tied with Claude Humphrey for most Pro Bowl appearances by a Falcons player with six. He retired in 1986.

2010 INDUCTEE DEION SANDERS

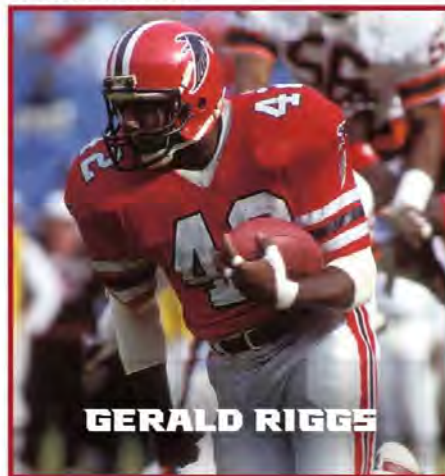


Sanders was a three-time Pro Bowl starter during his Falcons career after being selected as the fifth overall player in the 1989 draft out of Florida State. Considered one of the best pure cornerbacks ever to lace up a pair of cleats, Sanders also doubled as a dangerous return man. He was recently tabbed the 34th best player in the history of the League by a new NFL Films-produced series, The Top 100: NFL's Greatest Players. Sanders' Falcons career started in memorable fashion as he returned a punt 68 yards for a touchdown in his first NFL game as a rookie

against the Los Angeles Rams at Fulton County Stadium. Sanders' All-Rookie season also included him leading all first-year defensive backs with five interceptions and becoming the first Falcons player to ever appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated (on Nov. 13, 1989).

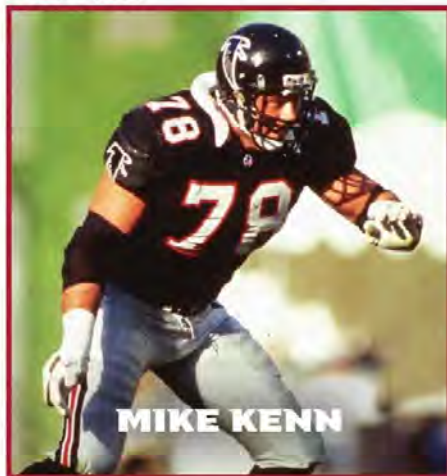
During his productive Falcons career from 1989-93, "Prime Time" established 12 club records for such marks as: most interceptions for touchdowns (2), longest punt return (79t yards), most punt return touchdowns (2), most KOR yards (3,063), most KOR touchdowns (3), longest kickoff return (100t), most combined return touchdowns (8), and most combined return yards (3,967), among others. The electrifying Sanders scored a total of 10 touchdowns in a Falcons uniform on five returns, three interceptions, and two receptions.

2013 INDUCTEE GERALD RIGGS



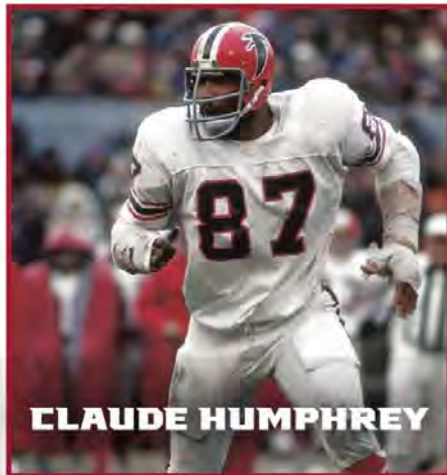
Riggs was selected by the Falcons as the ninth overall pick in the 1982 NFL Draft out of Arizona State. He was a three-time Pro Bowler in his seven seasons in Atlanta and finished his Falcons career as the franchise's all-time rushing leader with 6,831 rushing yards. Riggs tallied 48 career touchdowns, which puts him second in team history in terms of rushing touchdowns and fifth in overall touchdowns. Riggs' name litters the Falcons record books as he was one of the most prolific rushers of his time.

2008 INDUCTEES MIKE KENN



Kenn was a mainstay on the Falcons offensive line as the Michigan alum holds Falcons records in most games played and started (251) while ranking second in most seasons played with Atlanta (17). Kenn also posted a streak of 94 consecutive games played and earned Pro Bowl selections from 1980-84.

CLAUDE HUMPHREY



Humphrey was a first round pick by the Falcons in the 1968 NFL Draft and completed his career as the all-time sack leader in franchise history with 94.5. Humphrey also ranks third in Atlanta annals with 15.6 sacks in a single season. He is tied for the franchise lead with six Pro Bowl selections including five straight from 1970-74.



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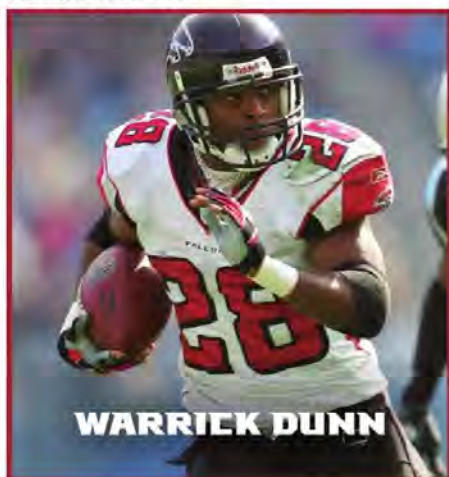


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RING OF HONOR

2017 INDUCTEE WARRICK DUNN



Dunn signed with the Falcons as a free agent in 2002 and spent six seasons with the team. During his time in Atlanta, Dunn gained 5,981 rushing yards – fourth-most in Falcons history – and 30 touchdowns while averaging 4.2 yards per carry. He caught 204 passes during his career with the Falcons – second-most among running backs in franchise history – for 1,635 yards – third-most among Atlanta running backs – and six touchdowns. From 2004-06, Dunn had three consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons, including his lone Pro Bowl

year with the Falcons in 2005. Dunn became part of NFL history in 2006, when he and quarterback Michael Vick became the first running back-quarterback duo to rush for 1,000 yards, apiece. In 2009, Dunn became a minority owner of the Falcons, the fifth person to earn this role.

2019 INDUCTEE RODDY WHITE

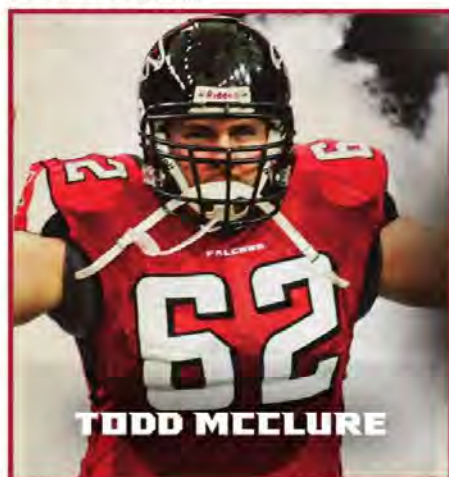


Roddy White, the 11th member of the Falcons Ring of Honor, was selected by the Atlanta Falcons in the first round of the 2005 NFL Draft. White spent all 11 seasons of his NFL career with the Falcons, ending his run as the all-time leading receiver in franchise history. In that time, White caught 808 passes for 10,863 yards and 63 touchdowns.

An All-Pro and four-time Pro Bowler, White gained at least 1,000 receiving yards in six straight seasons beginning in 2007. His best year came in 2010, when White caught 115 passes for

1,389 yards and 10 touchdowns.

2022 INDUCTEE TODD MCCLURE



The 237th overall pick of the 1999 NFL Draft, McClure became a franchise stalwart early in his career. Known for his grit and toughness, the Baton Rouge, La., native spent his entire 14-year career in Atlanta playing 197 games and making 195 starts. McClure set a club record, starting 144 consecutive games between 2001 and 2010. When he retired following the 2012 season, only Jeff Van Note and Mike Kenn had played more seasons and started more games in Atlanta. “Mud Duck” was a two-time member of USA Today’s All-Joe Team,

honoring unsung players that were not recognized with Pro Bowl selections each season. What he lacked in award recognition; McClure made up for in production as he anchored the offensive line for some of the most prolific units in franchise history.

He blocked for four 1,000-yard rushers including Michael Vick (2006) who became the first quarterback to reach that milestone, as well as Michael Turner (2008 & 2010), Warrick Dunn (2004, 2005 & 2006), and Jamal Anderson (2000). In 2006, McClure was part of the first offense in NFL history to boast a pair of 1,000-yard rushers at quarterback and running back when Vick and Dunn accomplished that feat. During his career, the Falcons posted five 10-win seasons, reached the postseason six times, and appeared in two conference championship games.

Owner and Chairman, Arthur M. Blank, and Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan will be enshrined in the Falcons Ring of Honor during the 2024 season. The duo, inextricably linked in the history of the franchise, will become the 13th and 14th members of the club’s ring of honor.



ARTHUR M. BLANK

Blank acquired the Falcons in 2002 and ushered in an era of unprecedented success. Under his leadership, the team has compiled a 178-176-1 regular-season record with eight play-off showings, including appearances in two NFC Championship games and one Super Bowl.

Ever since he co-founded The Home Depot, Blank has been an entrepreneur and philanthropist. He carried over his successful customer-first business model into the fan realm, always prioritizing those who support his entities. That has always been a non-negotiable for Blank, and it has paid off.

MATT RYAN

The Falcons picked Ryan with the No. 3 overall pick in the 2008 NFL Draft, a decision that changed the course of the franchise for the next 14 years. He completed 61.1% of his passes for 3,440 yards and 16 touchdowns. The 2021 season was Ryan’s last in Atlanta. He had a 7-10 record, with 67% of his passes completed for 3,968 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Officially, Ryan retired as a Falcon on April 22, 2024, after signing a one-day contract. Looking at his entire career in Atlanta, he started in 222 of a possible 225 regular-season games with a 120-102 record. He completed 65.5% of his passes for 59,735 yards and 367 touchdowns, ending his career as the most accomplished quarterback in franchise history.



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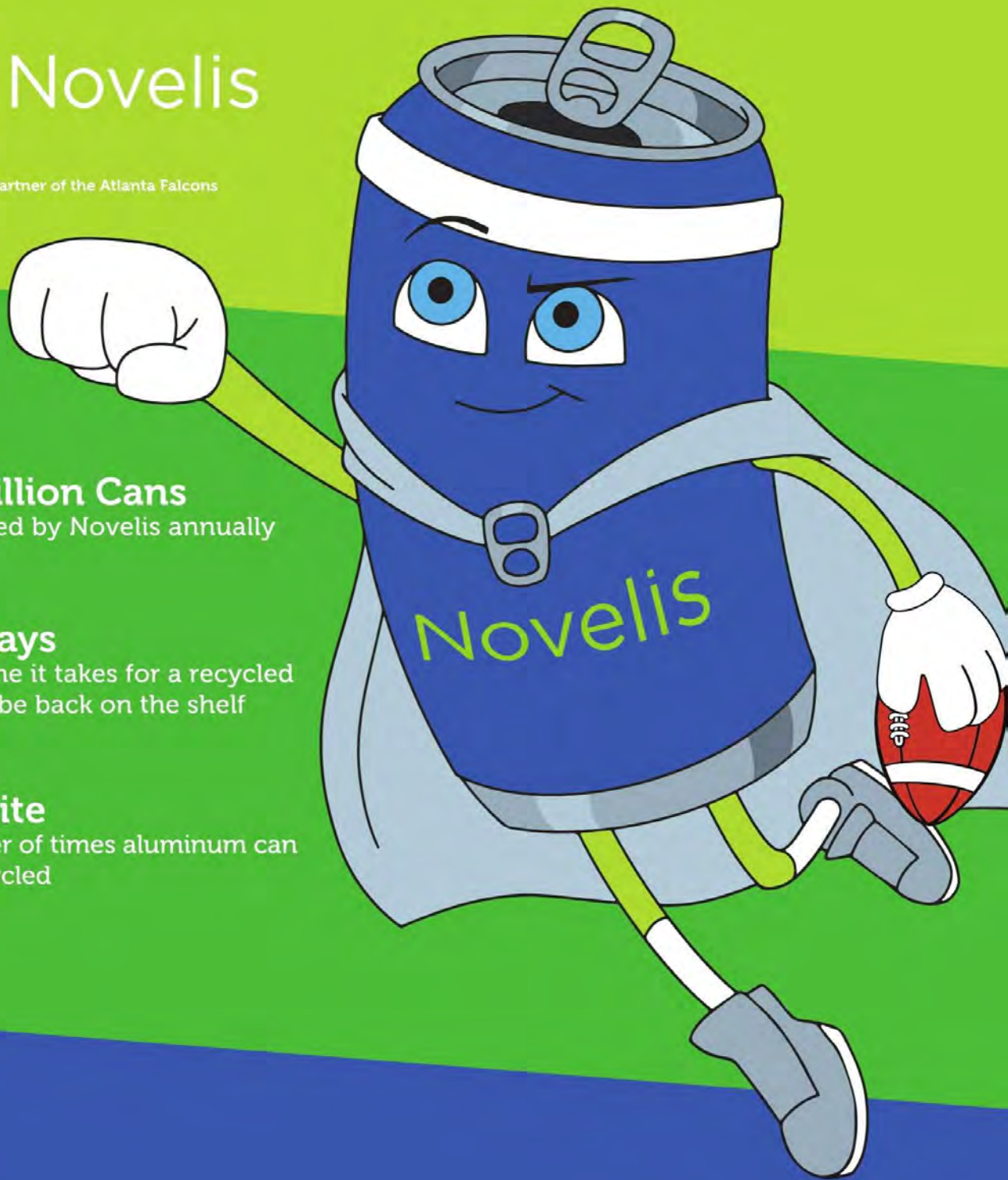
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